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Gurkha music festival in Dover with Deal's Rebecca Robinson. Search 'Gurkha'

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SINGER JOINS FORCES

Singer Rebecca Robinson from Deal is set to join up with the Folkestone-based Band of the Royal Gurkha Rifles for a concert in Dover. It will mix traditional Nepalese tunes and rhythms with favourites from classical Western music and show songs.

"It's going to be very exciting," said Rebecca. "I've never done anything like this before."

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

■ BY NICK AMES

THE delights of holidaying by the seaside have been highlighted by travel experts who praised a seafront cottage in Deal.

The Albion, close to the town centre, was applauded in a recent article in The Guardian which also highlighted the town's traditional seaside attractions. However, it was not so enthusiastic about parking in the town.

The story describes the property before giving its verdict: "Nostalgic, but not predictable. It doesn't shout 'seaside' with ceramic fish lightpulls and dried starfish, but rather evokes a sense of holidays past with old annuals, postcards stuck on walls and a guitar leaning against the sitting-room wall.

"White paper lanterns are strung across a beam, there are fresh flowers, and silk ones poking out from an old green Thermos.

"We wake to the sound of the sea (and traffic, unfortunately – the road passes right outside). It feels like the first day of the summer holidays. No one lurks in bed (my mattress isn't the greatest, though no one else has any complaints), instead we hit the beach."

The story then goes on to talk about the town itself and has further praise for the area and its attraction to families coming for a traditional seaside break at a time when holidaying in the UK has become far more fashionable due to the low value of the pound against the euro and dollar.

It continued: "Wishing we'd brought our bikes, we explore the town, then buy fish and chips, gamble two-pence pieces in an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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2 Discovering the crypt in St Peter's Church, Sandwich; one of the county's best kept secrets to visit. **Search 'crypt'**



3 Members of The Royal Sussex living history regiment at Folkestone's Shorncliffe Barracks. **Search 'history'**

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READY TO GO AHEAD: Safety checks have been completed at the former gasworks site

Gas site passes safety tests for building homes

■ BY NICK AMES

A MAJOR breakthrough in regeneration of the former gasworks in north Deal has come after tests revealed it was safe for building.

Tests have revealed no harmful substances in the ground at Cannon Lane which was previously home to a power-generation plant.

Now it will be transformed with a building programme of 80 new homes, a community centre and a GP surgery, subject to planning consent.

The area was first identified for regeneration in 2006 when the South East England Development Agency appointed architects to look at proposed options for a redevelopment of the former plant, which is opposite Sandown Primary School.

It was considered one of the best sites in town with potential for mixed residential and community use.

Dover District Council has welcomed news that progress continues to be made on the regeneration project in the area, which has been identified as needing assistance for some time.

The news has also been greeted with approval in the community.

Following extensive investigation

and testing of the soil, the next phase of work to regenerate the area is to commence subject to planning permission being granted.

The clean-up programme represents a significant investment by a range of partners to enable the site to be ready for regeneration.

Landowners are working with specialist environmental engineering company EDSR to treat and clear the site and then to restore the area.

DDC officers, working with the Environment Agency, say they will ensure the specialist workers and other site contractors who have been approached to carry out the work meet all necessary planning and regulatory requirements.

EDSR has also held public meetings and carried out mail drops to let people know about proposals, which will come into force subject to all relevant permissions being in place.

Julie Rook, DDC's Cabinet member for community, citizenship, youth and sport, said: "This is great news for north Deal. Residents have been waiting a very long time for development on this important site and it is encouraging to see progress.

"We will continue to work with partners on the wider development of this site for the benefit of the community and future of the area."

yourdeal

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cricketers help raise thousands on golf day

A CHARITY golf day organised by Kent and former England wicket-keeper Geraint Jones raised £10,600 for a charity which works with people with disabilities.

The event at Prince's Golf Club, Sandwich, raised the money for the Martha Trust, which is based at Hacklinge and assists with lifelong residential and respite care for some 30 people.

Kent bowler Martin Saggars took part alongside former county stars Dean Headley and Mike Denness.

A further event is planned for Thursday, October 15, at Chart Hills Golf Club, Biddenden.

Community squares up for egg-hunting

AN Easter egg-hunt is being organised by the Aylesham Carnival Association for Monday.

The annual event is one of the highlights of the celebrations of the festival in the town.

It will be held in the Market Square from 11am. Entry fees are £2 per child. For details, you can see www.ayleshamcarnival.co.uk.

The carnival itself will take place on Saturday, September 12.

Flat exchange plan awaiting permission

PROPOSALS have been put forward to convert The Old Exchange building in Deal to six self-contained flats as part of moves to provide top-quality new housing in the town.

The address in Stanhope Road will have the conversion subject to planning permission being granted by Dover District Council.

The application is due to be considered in the coming weeks.

Antiquities go on sale

MORE than 90 stallholders are set to take part in a sale organised by Walmer Parish Council for April 19.

It will be held on Walmer Green and feature antiquities and collectables.

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East meets West when Rebecca joins Gurkhas

■ BY NICK AMES

DEAL singer Rebecca Robinson is set to star in a fusion of Eastern and Western music when she appears on stage with the Band of the Royal Gurkha Rifles.

The soloist – who specialises in swing and classical music – will be performing operatic and show numbers at a concert to be held at the Duke of York music school in Dover on Thursday to Saturday, April 16-18.

Accompanying her will be the band of the Gurkhas, who are based in Folkestone, for the latest in a series of annual shows.

This will be the first time the concerts have been extended to cover three days, however.

Rebecca said: "It's going to be an unusual concert, but I am really excited. I got a phone call out of the blue and said yes immediately."

Gurkha bandleader Major Wayne Hopla explained how the concert would work.

"It will be a mix of East and West – some tunes the audience will certainly recognise but with that added Nepalese input the Gurkhas will bring. It should be very exciting."

Gurkha bandsmen frequently have no experience of music before they join the band. They are recruited straight after basic infantry training when Maj Hopla goes to the base at Catterick and asks for volunteers.

"The Gurkhas come from a rich musical tradition, so there is no lack of interest," he said.

Rebecca, who has made several CDs, explained how she became involved in music.



READY TO ENTERTAIN: Rebecca Robinson and bandleader Major Wayne Hopla are looking forward to the concerts

She said: "My love of singing was born out of the amateur dramatics scene I was involved in during my late teens. This initially led me in the direction of country music, performing with a band and as a soloist for a number of years."

"A return to theatre productions gave me the impetus to explore new genres and unlock the full potential of my vocal ability."

"In 2003 I turned to Avril Gray, an acclaimed singing tutor who re-taught me the theory of singing and in doing so allowed the range, control and strength of my voice to flourish."

"It was Avril who introduced me to classical music and the songs from the shows and it is this aspect of my repertoire that I gain most satisfaction from and truly love to perform."

"In 2005 I chose to devote myself solely to singing. In the intervening period I have recorded two albums and built up a client base that sees me performing throughout the South East in a commercial and private capacity."

"My love of music and performing deepens with every day and I'm passionate about the continued development of my abilities."

Free swimming makes a splash for the over-60s

THE Government's free swimming initiative to those aged 60 and above was launched this month at Tides Leisure Centre in Deal.

The over-60s must bring proof of age to take advantage of the new scheme.

Vista Leisure's chief executive Kevin Fordham said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership to deliver both the swimming initiatives."

"Swimming is great fun and if people in our district take regular exercise of this nature it can really improve their health and well-being."

Dover council's Julie Rook said: "With a growing population of people aged 60 and over in the district, this initiative is ideal to support people in leading a healthy and active lifestyle."

Waste ground to be an allotment

POPULAR demand means there is a waiting list for an allotment plot in Deal

Anyone who would like to place their name on the waiting list or who would like more information on the allotments in Deal should phone Mike Osborne on 01304 361999 or email him at mike.osborne@deal.gov.uk

The town council manages three sites – Mill Road, Park Avenue and Golf Road.

A wildlife survey has now been carried out and work is about to start on waste ground alongside the current Mill Road allotments.

This area will provide about another 30 allotment plots.

Bandstand work nears completion

THE final touches are being added to the Deal bandstand renovation work ready for the programme of concerts which will take place throughout the summer.

Contractors have been working on the roof and floor of the structure as well as polishing up its plaques.

A full programme of summer events has also been finalised

The main attraction is the visit of the Royal Marines musicians on Sunday, July 12, to mark the 20th anniversary of the IRA attack on their school of music in the town.

The resulting bomb blast cost the lives of 11 young bandsmen – all of whom now have their names inscribed on a different side of the structure in Walmer Gardens.

The concert will also be shown on two large video screens which will be erected next to the stand.

They will show the expected large



PROGRESS: Contractors are almost finished

crowd the march, which takes place prior to the concert.

A grant of £5,000 towards the screens has been donated to the bandstand appeal by the Sainsbury's Community Fund.

The Marines left the town when the music school was relocated to Portsmouth in 1996. However, they pledged to return each year for a special concert as a mark of respect to those killed and injured in the attack.

Their visit is one of the most important annual days in the town's calendar.

Summer events start on Sunday, May 3, with a visit by the Betteshanger Welfare Brass Band.

Musicians from the towns of Cranbrook, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Whitstable, Canterbury and Gravesend will also be putting in appearances.

Concerts take place throughout the summer on Sundays, starting at 2.30pm. All are free, although on occasion collections may be taken.

The bandstand itself was built in 1922 as a memorial following the attack on the barracks.

The beauty on your doorstep

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

amusement arcade and sip tea in an ice-cream parlour... We're charmed by The Albion – and by Deal. When we close the door for the last time on Sunday and say goodbye, the youngest bursts into tears."

The story concludes with the statement: "Good Deal? The town's cool – but the astronomical parking charges are not."

Deal councillor and hotelier Trevor Bond, who runs the Ramada in Dover and Canterbury's Holiday Inn, said the article showed how the town was making its mark as a tourist destination.

"It's a beautiful place and I live here for that very reason," he said. "You don't need to go to the Mediterranean to see great places – they are on your doorstep."



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Great strides to help cystic fibrosis charity

PEOPLE from around Kent are invited on a walk along the white cliffs of Dover to raise money for cystic fibrosis research.

The four or six-mile walk, depending on the length people wish to go, is taking place on Sunday, May 17, as part of a worldwide project called Great Strides.

Hundreds of people will be taking part to raise funds to help the 8,000 people who suffer from cystic fibrosis.

Joanne Holdaway, regional fund-raising manager for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, said: "This is going to be a fantastic walk along the famous cliff-top to South Foreland lighthouse and back with fabulous views of the Channel."

The walk starts at 10.30am from the National Trust visitor centre at Langdon Cliffs.

Entry £6 for adults and £2.50 for children, which includes a T-shirt and sponsorship pack.

• To sign up, visit www.greatstrides.org.uk.

Museum putting the past back together

VISITORS to Dover Museum are being given the chance to design their own jigsaw as part of the Our Childhood Past exhibition.

The event is being held on Wednesday, April 15, from 10am-4.30pm, and children and adults alike can have a go at a variety of jigsaws as well as designing and making their own.

There is no extra charge for these activities and normal admission prices apply of £2.50 for adults and £1.50 for children, senior citizens and concessions.

Admission to the museum is free for Dover district residents, but proof of address is required.

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LEAPS OF FUN AT NEW GYM

Dover Gymnastics Club has celebrated its 33rd birthday with the opening of new premises.

MP Gwyn Prosser cut the ceremonial ribbon at the new, larger building in Poulton Close to herald a new era for the club.

The event also celebrated the club's GymMark status and Dover Mayor Diane Smallwood, a former member of the club, presented a commemorative plaque to mark the achievement.

The club's new status means it has been recognised by British Gymnastics, Sport England and the Home Country Sports Councils as a safe and effective club.

Frank Critcher, club chairman, said: "This is an exciting time for the club and the move to bigger premises will allow us to grow and develop to meet the needs of existing and future members."

"None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our wonderful volunteers who spend hours and hours of their own time to run the club so that our young members have nice facilities to use."

Authorities to bid for £5m boost to transport services

■ BY MARIJKE COX

DOVER'S transport services could get a multi-million-pound boost following an invitation from the Government to put in a bid for funding.

More than £5 million could be awarded to the district to help deliver schemes as part of the Government's Growth Areas and Growth Points programme, which helps communities pursuing large-scale development.

Dover District Council, Kent County Council and their partners must submit business plans showcasing what improvements are needed for the area.

These are seen as including a £3.3m bid for Dover Priory train station, £1.6m for junction improvements and £500,000 for further investment in public transport.

The schemes are three of just 26 from across the UK that will be considered by the Government as part of a second round of transport funding.

The first stage offered £170m, made available

to 29 transport projects aimed at supporting the development of new housing.

Now a further £30m could help support the 26 other schemes – including those earmarked for Dover.

Housing minister Margaret Beckett said: "We know that good transport links are vital to successful communities and these projects will unlock the potential for new housing where it is needed."

The Government's announcement comes as the district prepares for the arrival of the high-speed rail link later this year.

Paul Watkins, Tory leader of DDC, said: "This is important news and we are working hard with KCC and partners to bring a detailed business case together."

"Growth Point status is helping to provide the working finance to deliver regeneration and this is further positive news as a range of devel-

opments are brought together to reshape the future of the area."

Ben Bano, leader of the Labour group at DDC, was also pleased with the announcement.

He said: "I welcome the green light being given to develop these schemes. Dover and its district depend on good transport links. It's good to see that even in difficult times the Government is prepared to invite bids to back Dover."

If the bids are successful, the district could see more than £5m, taken from the Community Infrastructure Fund, being pumped into transport schemes over the next few years.

This will be needed to support the controversial mass housing development set out in the council's core strategy, should it go ahead.

This proposes a minimum of 10,100 homes to be built by 2026, with the possibility of up to 14,000.

Among the criticism aimed at the plans is the lack of infrastructure to support such intense development, but with the Growth Point bids being made, the council believes this can be overcome.

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Big drop in district house prices is the second largest in country

DOVER has experienced the second biggest fall in house prices in the country.

■ BY MARIJKE COX

According to property website Zoopla.co.uk, the town has seen a fall of almost 22 per cent, putting it just behind Chertsey in Surrey, where house prices have dropped the most, by 23.48 per cent.

The value of the UK's housing market overall has dipped by 18.62 per cent due to the recession, but property prices in Dover are falling in some cases by more than £100 a day.

Alex Chesterman, chief executive of Zoopla, said: "Those areas that have experienced the largest value drops over the past 12 months are the very same areas that have grown at a faster pace than others in the preceding years."

"There have been some welcome signs of a slowing in the rate of decline of UK house

prices over the past few weeks and positive signals coming from both estate agents and lenders in terms of activity levels.

"However, it is too early to tell whether this is a short-term seasonal bounce or a more sustained effect as the market finds a bottom."

According to Zoopla, the average house price in Dover is £156,505, but sales of less than £100,000 for terraced properties have been made in the past few months.

Charlie Elphicke, Conservative parliamentary candidate for Dover and Deal, said the findings underlined the need to strengthen the local economy.

"We need more business, money and jobs locally, especially higher-skilled, higher-paid jobs.

"Investment in our transport infrastructure, Dover's regeneration and more business space really matters.

"I am deeply concerned about the Government's failure to invest in roads and lack of help for Manston airport."

The parliamentary hopeful also criticised the Environment Agency for holding up regeneration and the planned new hospital due to fears of flooding.

He said: "We need more action from the Government to help move Dover forward. The current situation is very damaging."

Other areas around the country have been left virtually untouched, with Lewes in East Sussex – only 85 miles away from Dover – seeing a fall of just seven per cent.

Zoopla.co.uk updates home values daily for all 26 million UK homes, allowing users to track the value of any property.

Raise your glass to help children with cataracts

A COFFEE shop in Dover is hosting a charity night to raise money for the Childhood Cataract Network.

The event is being held at La Salle Verte on Saturday, May 2, at 7.30pm, and a representative from The Body Shop will be on hand to show off beauty products while guests enjoy a glass of wine.

A raffle is being organised, with prizes already donated by SeaFrance, Vista Leisure, Pigotts Solicitors, The Ramada Inn and White Cliffs Tours.

Haydn and Diane Billson, owners of La Salle Verte, have offered the venue and staff free of charge for the evening after a customer whose child suffers from cataracts approached them about holding a fund-raising event.

Tickets cost £5.

• For more information or to reserve a place, email lasalleverte@aol.com or phone 01304 201547.



CADETS HAVE LYNX EFFECT

Dover Sea Cadets have been praised by the district's parliamentary candidate for their Royal Naval Parade.

Charlie Elphicke, the Tory hopeful for Dover and Deal, said that parents of the Cadets at TS Lynx, the Mayor of Dover, MP Gwyn Prosser and a number of councillors were all impressed with how the youngsters coped under inspection by a senior officer of the Royal Navy.

Mr Elphicke said: "Seeing the Sea Cadets on parade, I felt so proud of our young people. They were a credit to their parents and to Dover. If this is our future, it is going to be a good one. The Dover Sea Cadets are a growing force. I hope even more young people will join the Sea Cadets."

IT engineers make the grade

THREE IT engineers from the Port of Dover are among just seven in the world to be awarded a new professional qualification.

Ben Johnston, Mark Burton and Mike Demetriou, who are responsible for IT systems which handle more than 20,000 ferry movements and 14 million passengers a year, have all gained their ICTTECH from the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

Daniel Gillett, head of ICT services at the port, said: "I am very proud to see three of my team achieve the first level with flying colours.

"I hope that nine other ICT engineers from the port will join them within the next year in what I am sure will become the industry-

recognised measure of well-rounded ICT skills and experience.

"The industry has numerous supplier-specific qualifications – which give employers a clear picture of team-members' knowledge and ability to work with those suppliers' products.

"But what we've lacked before now is independent accreditation that recognises the importance of individuals' broader professional skills."

The IT team at the port has worked with the Institution of Engineering and Technology to develop the qualification and is pushing for additional standards or recognition up to chartered status.

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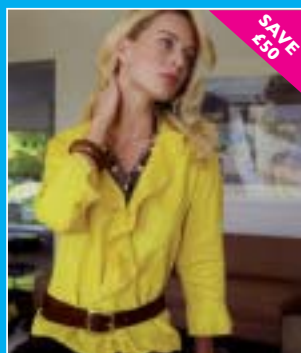
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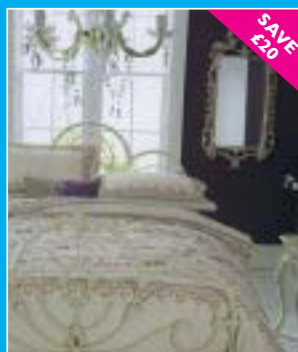
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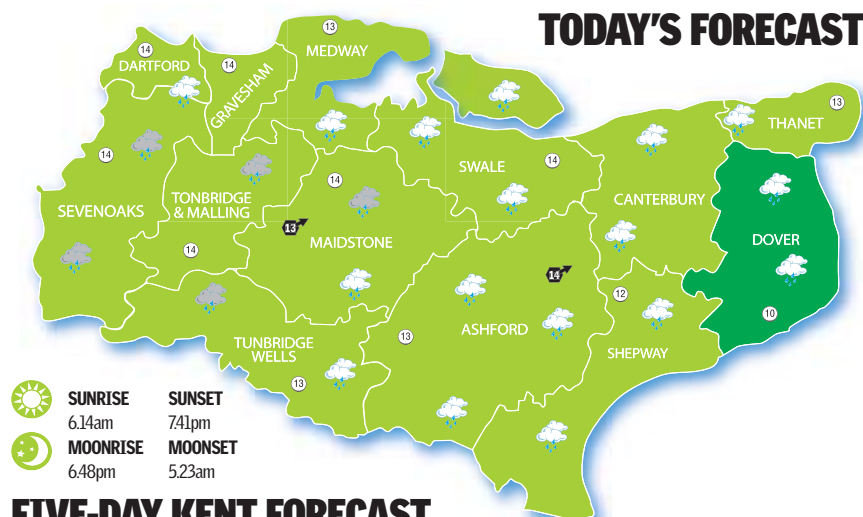
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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	2:48pm	6.1m
	Sunday	3:21pm	6.0m
Dover	Saturday	1:03pm	6.5m
	Sunday	1:37pm	6.5m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:02pm	7.7m
	Sunday	1:36pm	7.5m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:33pm	5.0m
	Sunday	2:07pm	4.9m
Sheerness	Saturday	2:38pm	5.8m
	Sunday	3:11pm	5.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	2:54pm	5.2m
	Sunday	3:25pm	5.1m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	16°C	Madrid	22°C
Athens	11°C	New York	14°C
Barcelona	16°C	Paris	19°C
Beijing	26°C	Rome	17°C
Bombay	36°C	Sydney	19°C
Cape Town	21°C	Tenerife	22°C
Cardiff	11°C	Tokyo	18°C
Gibraltar	17°C	Vancouver	12°C
Hong Kong	19°C	Warsaw	14°C
Las Palmas	22°C	Wellington	18°C

Kent on Saturday proves more news is good news

KENT ON SATURDAY

KOS Media is proud to announce the addition of Kent on Saturday to its award-winning series of newspapers.

Incorporating all the best aspects of our existing Kentish Saturday Observer, this exciting new publication will cover all the biggest news and sports stories of the week and reach more readers than ever before.

At a time when other local newspaper groups are being forced to cut back on staff and resources, the birth of Kent on Saturday demonstrates that KOS Media, the publisher of this paper, is still thriving despite the economic climate.

Managing director Paul Stannard said: "This is another exciting development for us at KOS Media following the launch of our two new YourLocal papers in Deal and Sandwich last month, which demonstrates our commitment to delivering hard-hitting news throughout the county."

Delivery

"Kent on Saturday will sit as an equal to our award-winning Kent on Sunday publication and act as the perfect start to the weekend."

Readers will be able to get their hands on a copy of the free paper from next weekend, with the number of available copies being significantly higher than was offered by the Kentish Saturday Observer.

Kent on Saturday will be available from all good newsagents and retail outlets from this Saturday. Alternatively, you can go green by reading it free on screen at www.kentnews.co.uk.

Meanwhile, KOS Media is running a new promotion to offer free delivery of its weekend papers to selected homes. To find out more visit www.kentnews.co.uk/free.

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	13°C	13°C	13°C	13°C	12°C	Gravesend	13°C	14°C	13°C	13°C	13°C
Canterbury	12°C	12°C	14°C	12°C	12°C	Maidstone	13°C	13°C	14°C	13°C	13°C
Chatham	12°C	13°C	12°C	11°C	11°C	Ramsgate	12°C	12°C	14°C	12°C	12°C
Dartford	13°C	14°C	13°C	13°C	13°C	Rochester	12°C	13°C	12°C	11°C	11°C
Dover	10°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	11°C	Sevenoaks	11°C	12°C	12°C	11°C	11°C
Faversham	12°C	13°C	12°C	11°C	11°C	Sittingbourne	12°C	13°C	12°C	11°C	11°C
Folkestone	10°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	11°C	Tonbridge	13°C	13°C	13°C	12°C	12°C
Gillingham	12°C	13°C	12°C	11°C	11°C	Tun Wells	13°C	13°C	13°C	12°C	12°C

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

LAURA THORNTON



Q How did you get involved with the charity?

A In 2007 I was working as a press officer in the public sector and wanted a complete change of career after working in communications for about six years. I saw a community fund-raising job advertised on Macmillan's website – everything about it sounded exciting and I realised what an amazing charity it is. Fund-raising is challenging but very rewarding, and Macmillan is passionate about what we do.

Q Can you tell us a little about the charity?

A Macmillan Cancer Support was set up by Douglas Macmillan in 1911 and we help people affected by cancer by giving practical, emotional, financial and medical support. As treatments improve, more and more people are living with cancer in their daily lives. Macmillan's ambition is to reach and improve the lives of everyone affected by cancer by 2010.

As well as our incredible health-care professionals, including Macmillan nurses, we provide financial grants and last year we gave more than £232,000 to some 660 people in Kent. Our national helpline CancerLine is available for people who need help on 0808 808 2020.

As a team we work with local supporters, including our committees and other fund-raising groups, to raise money through public collections and local events. We also attend cheque presentations, recruit volunteers, give

talks about Macmillan, issue fund-raising advice to supporters, write newsletters, ensure our website is fully up to date and put on events such as sponsored walks.

Q What is the most challenging part of your job?

A Macmillan is fortunate enough to have fantastic supporters across Kent and we are always looking to expand by recruiting more volunteers. Generating as many donations as we would like can be challenging, especially in the current climate, but this is an exciting challenge at the same time. It can be challenging to keep thinking of new and innovative ways to fund-raise and ensure the money keeps coming in.

Q What is the best thing about working for Macmillan?

A The best bit about my job is working with our supporters – hearing their stories is inspirational. We have passionate, talented and dedicated supporters and being able to help them organise fund-raising events is rewarding. I also enjoy raising awareness of Macmillan using the media. The events we have are great fun to be involved with – there's a lot of variety.

Q Do you get a lot of volunteers signing up to help out?

A We have many dedicated volunteers who give up a lot of their time to raise money for Macmillan. For example, our Deal fund-raising

committee has been working for Macmillan for more than 30 years and raised more than £20,000 last year. A Macmillan nurse costs £184 a day, so this level of fund-raising is invaluable to us. Volunteers are invaluable and we are looking for more people to help us raise funds for people affected by cancer.

Q What kind of set-up do you have in east Kent?

A Macmillan helps support many people through our teams in Margate, Canterbury and Ashford. Last year we helped people with grants in Dover, Deal, Thanet, Canterbury, Sandwich, Ashford and Herne Bay.

Q What fund-raising events have you organised recently?

A We have just been at the Paddock Wood half-marathon, where a team of Macmillan runners was pounding the streets. May is our walking month and we're hoping as many people as possible will organise their own walks with friends and family. Readers can go to our new website www.macmillan.org.uk/walking to find out more and register today.

Q How do people sign up to volunteer?

A We'd love to hear from anyone who could spare a few hours, whether it's collecting or organising an event. Phone 01622 60050, or email lthornton@macmillan.org.uk.

Q & A

Laura Thornton, fund-raising manager at Macmillan Cancer Support, talks to **Marijke Cox** about the work the charity does through events and its need for more volunteers to help raise much-needed funds

THE ORCHID

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Inside the Spring/Summer issue 2009

- Guide to visiting the Kent Downs
- Orchids
- Woodlands feature
- Cycle route
- Book reviews
- Cherry orchards
- Events and more



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Should you not be able to find a copy please telephone 01303 815170 or alternatively read The Orchid online by visiting www.kentnews.co.uk and click in The Orchid image at the bottom of the home page.



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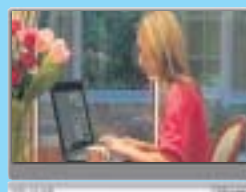
Kent Life has been re-launched as a fun family attraction. Search 'Kent'



Second successful Travel & Leisure Show held in Dover. Search 'travel'



A guide to what's on offer at Gurkha Music Festival. Search 'Gurkha'



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Police launch Safer Spring campaign to stop nuisance crime. Search 'safer'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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'Bankers who sparked crisis deserve prison'

LEADING journalist and broadcaster Andrew Neil has lashed out at a business conference at the banks that sparked the economic crisis.

He told delegates at the Kent 2020 Vision business exhibition that he would like to see some bankers go jail – but that would probably happen in the US rather than here.

Mr Neil, a former Sunday Times editor who is now chief of Press Holdings and owner of The Spectator, said the problem was not lack of banking regulation but failure to implement existing rules.

He said: "I do think everyone was complicit in this. The banks are clearly the number one villain, but everyone looked the other way.

"I don't think the banks should be regulated to hell, but I would like to see some of them suffer," he said.

■ BY TONY PATEY

"I would like to see the handcuffs on some of the bankers because I think they have broken the law and I do think they deserve to go to jail.

"I think that will happen in America, although I would hope to think in this country as well – but I do look forward to it happening in the US."

Kent County Council leader Paul Carter told the conference that plans would be unveiled this year aimed at boosting the number of youngsters taking up apprenticeships in Kent.

The proposals should increase the number of apprentices from about 2,000 to 8,000 within a few years.

More than 3,000 business people attended the fourth annual 2020 Vision event at the County Showground, Detling, on Thursday.



ANDREW NEIL: Angered by banks' role in credit crunch

Prepaid cards ready to help animal park

JUST before Christmas the Aspinall Foundation, in conjunction with KOS Media, publisher of this newspaper, offered readers the chance to win a VIP family trip around Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Hythe.

The prize includes free entry to the park and a trip in a safari vehicle around the African Experience, a 100-acre site next to the park with breathtaking views of the English Channel.

Entrants were asked to either send in a postal entry with their contact details or take advantage of registering for a free Aspinall prepaid Maestro card.

Registration

Some readers experienced problems with the online registration for the card due to a malfunction, so KOS Media readers are invited to try again and register on www.savinggorillas.com for their free Aspinall Foundation Maestro prepaid card.

It is easy to apply for and no credit check is necessary.

Young people aged between 13 and 17 can also apply, as long as they have their parents' permission.

The card can be used as a debit card but is topped up like a mobile phone and all profits associated with using it are given back to the Foundation.

By using this card, help will be given to support the Foundation's African projects in Congo and Gabon, as well as to the important work carried out in the UK and other parts of the world.

The card is a safe alternative to carrying cash and is accepted worldwide. The account can easily be managed online with instant top-up available.

• The winner of the VIP family trip around Port Lympne is Elizabeth Instone, from Chatham.

World leaders given a taste of Kent's finest

WORLD leaders in London for the G20 summit were served a 'best of British' dinner that included vegetables from the Garden of England.

US president Barack Obama, French president Nicolas Sarkozy and other leaders of the 20 richest countries in the world sat down together for a meal cooked by Jamie Oliver at Downing Street on Wednesday last week.

The party tucked into a starter of organic Scottish salmon served with samphire and sea

kale, with a selection of vegetables from Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

For the main course, slow-roasted shoulder of lamb from a hill farm in Wales was served with Jersey Royal potatoes, wild mushrooms and mint sauce.

Dessert was a classic comfort food of Bakewell tart and custard.

As the leaders debated the benefits of fiscal stimulus, their spouses enjoyed a more relaxed dinner hosted by Sarah Brown with celebrity

guests from the worlds of fashion, sports, business and the arts.

Olympic gold-medallist Dame Kelly Holmes, from Tonbridge, was seated next to Michelle Obama. On the other side of the First Lady was Harry Potter author JK Rowling.

The G20 summit saw the leaders come together at the Excel centre in London's Docklands on Thursday to agree measures to tackle the worst global financial crisis since the 1930s.

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exercise activitytimetable

Bannatyne's Health Club Folkestone

5th January - 3rd May 2009



monday

STUDIO 1

09.00 - 09.30 **Abs & Tone**
09.30 - 10.30 **BLT Blitz**
10.30 - 11.30 **Hi/Lo Swiss Ball**
11.30 - 12.30 **Body Combat**
14.30 - 15.30 **Young at Heart**
18.00 - 19.00 **Body Combat**
19.00 - 20.00 **Body Pump**
20.15 - 21.30 **Yoga**

SPIN STUDIO

06.40 - 07.40 **Early Spin**
09.30 - 10.15 **'Vibe' Spin**
20.00 - 21.00 **Spin**

MIND & BODY

12.15 - 13.45 **Yoga**
17.45 - 18.30 **Abs Stretch & Tone**
18.30 - 19.45 **Pilates**

AQUA

19.30 - 20.15 **Aqua**

GYM

10.30 - 11.30 **Plan B**

tuesday

STUDIO 1

06.45 - 07.30 **Body Pump**
10.30 - 11.30 **Body Pump**
12.15 - 13.00 **Step**
18.00 - 19.00 **Step**
19.00 - 20.15 **Fitness Yoga**

SPIN STUDIO

11.45 - 12.30 **Advanced Spin**
18.00 - 18.30 **Begin to Spin**
18.45 - 19.30 **Spin**

MIND & BODY

09.45 - 11.15 **Yoga**
13.30 - 14.45 **Yoga**
20.00 - 20.45 **Glide & Sculpt**

AQUA

11.15 - 12.00 **Aqua Attack**

wednesday

STUDIO 1

09.30 - 10.30 **BLT Blitz**
14.30 - 15.30 **Young at Heart**
19.00 - 20.00 **Body Combat**
20.00 - 21.00 **Body Pump**

SPIN STUDIO

06.45 - 07.30 **Early Spin**
09.45 - 10.30 **Spin**
17.30 - 18.15 **Spin**

MIND & BODY

12.30 - 13.30 **Pilates**
13.30 - 14.30 **Chi Ball**
16.00 - 17.30 **Power Yoga**
18.00 - 19.00 **Stretch & Tone**
19.30 - 20.45 **Pilates**

AQUA

12.15 - 13.00 **Aqua**

thursday

STUDIO 1

09.30 - 10.30 **Body Pump**
18.00 - 19.00 **Boxercise**
19.00 - 20.00 **Total Body Blast**
20.00 - 21.00 **Swiss Ball Blitz**

SPIN STUDIO

08.00 - 08.45 **Spin**
11.30 - 12.15 **Spin**
19.30 - 20.15 **Advanced Spin**

MIND & BODY

09.45 - 11.15 **Yoga**
11.30 - 12.30 **Pilates**

AQUA

11.30 - 12.15 **Aqua**
20.15 - 21.00 **Aqua**

GYM

20.15 - 21.15 **Plan B**

friday

STUDIO 1

09.30 - 10.30 **Step**
10.30 - 11.30 **Body Combat**
14.30 - 15.30 **Young at Heart**
18.00 - 19.00 **Body Pump**

SPIN STUDIO

06.40 - 07.40 **Early Spin & Abs**
09.15 - 10.00 **Advanced Spin**
19.00 - 19.45 **Spin**

MIND & BODY

10.15 - 11.45 **Yoga**

AQUA

11.15 - 12.00 **Aqua Attack**

saturday

STUDIO 1

08.15 - 09.15 **Body Combat**
09.15 - 10.15 **Body Pump**
13.00 - 14.00 **Fit Club (6-8 yrs)**
19.00 - 19.30 **Abs & Tone**

SPIN STUDIO

13.00 - 13.45 **Spin**

MIND & BODY

08.15 - 09.00 **Abs, Stretch & Tone**
09.00 - 09.15 **Body Pump Clinic**
09.30 - 10.30 **Pilates**
11.30 - 12.30 **Pilates**

sunday

STUDIO 1

09.30 - 10.00 **Ab Attack**
10.00 - 11.00 **Body Combat**

SPIN STUDIO

08.45 - 10.00 **Yoga**
10.15 - 11.00 **Spin**
17.00 - 18.00 **Spin & Abs**

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Let's do it

Mulberry Tree's deep local roots

FLIPPING over a menu in a restaurant today is rarely an eye-opening experience.

Maybe it will have the desserts ... or perhaps simply a heavy hint to leave a tip if you believe the service has been up to scratch. Some, simply a splodge of someone else's leftovers. Yet for one restaurant in a pretty village just outside Maidstone, it has turned it into an opportunity to underline its Kentish credentials.

Because at the award-winning Mulberry Tree in Boughton Monchelsea, owners list the suppliers of all the main ingredients.

It is a transparency which has proved a big hit for the restaurant and played a role in it scooping the prestigious restaurant of the year title in the Taste of Kent awards at Leeds Castle in February.

The Produced in Kent-backed awards reward those who support local suppliers and producers. Putting the source of the food in the diners' face proved a shrewd move.

Karen Williams, the owner of the Mulberry Tree, said: "It works in two ways. It's great advertising for them, but it keeps them on their toes, too. For example – and not that it's ever happened – but if someone is eating a piece of meat they don't think comes up to scratch, the supplier's name is on the menu so they are named and shamed."

"It's quite an unusual thing to do and we get an awful lot of comments about it."

Today, nearly two years in, it has bucked the trend as its revenues increase in what is traditionally one of the slowest periods of the year. And with both her mother and daughter involved in the day-to-day running, it is very much a personal, family-run business.

Yet it is the food which puts this hidden treasure in the spotlight.

In a perfect fit with our campaign of urging our readers to demand locally produced and sourced food and drink – spearheaded by our www.foodforkent.co.uk website – it is a vision embraced wholeheartedly by the Mulberry Tree. And it takes a need to 'go



BUY LOCAL: Karen Williams, owner of the Mulberry Tree restaurant at Boughton Monchelsea, names her local suppliers on the menu



local' very seriously. All its meat comes from nearby Cranbrook – the beef from the Angley School farm and the venison from Staplehurst. Wild mushrooms are foraged locally by an expert and the fish is chosen fresh from the catch of the day by crews in Hythe. Even the flour for the freshly-made and baked bread is local. It has even secured

the once thought impossible and put together an entirely Kentish cheeseboard.

The owner adds: "Sourcing local is the way forward. Life changes and we evolve with it. By doing this we're championing the little people. I've always dealt with local suppliers – not as consciously as I do now – but it is important to me."

"We are a little person. An independent. We have to fight hard to survive. Spending locally is vital."

"Campaigns such as yours are tapping into a real shift right now. It's like cutting down on using carrier bags. Now when I go shopping I consciously make an effort to buy seasonal, local, food."

Delicious Easter Kentish feast delivered to your door

WHAT better way to celebrate Easter this year than sitting down to a delicious feast of Kent food and drink?

And by shopping at www.foodforkent.co.uk you can do just that. We have teamed up with the top producers from across the county to allow you to order up a tasty Easter for your friends and family.

Our one-stop online shop makes buying local easy – just browse the huge range and select your delivery window. Before you know it, it will be delivered straight to your door.

This week, we have Easter lamb, reared in Ash, near Canterbury. It comes from one of the oldest breeds in the world, The Romney – sometimes referred to as The Kent – producing consistent quality for centuries. And at £17.25 per leg you can save £2.73 on Sainsbury's prices of Welsh lamb.

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can make savings compared to all the major supermarkets and be comfortable in the knowledge that your fish has come straight from the English Channel.

It's spring too, and this means lots of fresh local vegetables

and salads coming into season to arrive with you the day after they were picked and with minimal environmental impact. So have a happy Easter with www.foodforkent.co.uk.

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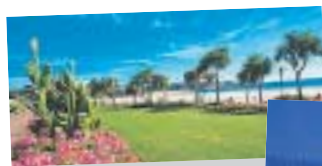
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BREAK TIME

Brilliant biathlete

A STUDENT at Walmer Science College put in a superb performance at this year's British Schools Biathlon Championship.

Year ten pupil Dan Seagrove-Castle earned his place at the national competition after winning gold at the South East regionals in November. He travelled to Bath University to take part in the biathlon, where he finished third in the first event, the 1,000-metre run.

Four hours later he competed in the 100-metre freestyle swim, taking first place. Dan finished fifth overall at the championship.

Dramatic conclusion

CHILDREN from primary schools in the district have enjoyed a special performance of Dover Grammar School for Boys' show of The Boy Who Fell Into a Book.

Vale View, Charlton and St Martin's primary pupils attended the final showing of the Alan Ayckbourn play at the Roundhouse Theatre in Dover.

Pupils from the town's girls' and boys' grammars took to the stage for the final performance and were later thanked by the play's director, boys' grammar drama teacher Mr Thomas.

Their finest hour is brought to life

MORE than 200 children from schools across Kent descended on Dover Museum for the return of its popular Second World War festival.

Pupils and teachers dressed in 1940s gear for the three-day workshop, while students from South Kent College gave their hair-styles a period look.

Activities included a drama workshop on life for children during wartime, and visitors also had the opportunity to explore the museum.

Ration books, air-raid shelters and gas masks were among subjects discussed.

Sue Nicholas, of Dover District Council, said: "Events at Dover museum are a fantastic way to bring history to life and are always popular. The Second World War festival was a great success and pupils had a lot of fun learning about history and getting a real insight into life in the past."

Pupils from Worth Primary School and the Learning Opportunities Centre at Ringwood

■ BY MARIJKE COX

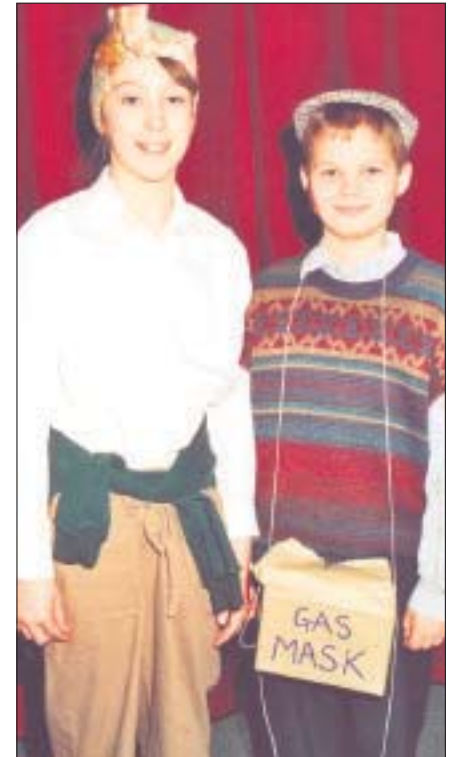
were among those attending the festival. Others came from as far away as Sheppey to take part.

Dover Museum has been commended for its work in providing quality educational visits for youngsters, with the war festival being one of the events recognised.

It was awarded a Learning Outside The Classroom badge through the Government's Out And About package, which provides information to teachers on how to plan and organise activities that enhance learning.

Cllr Nicholas said: "Pupils visiting the museum can take part in a range of workshops linked to the National Curriculum, and families are also catered for with a range of family days every month."

For more information, visit the website www.dovermuseum.co.uk, phone 01304 241186, or email museumenquiries@dover.gov.uk.



WE'LL MEET AGAIN: Pupils in 1940s-style clothing during the popular Second World War festival at Dover Museum

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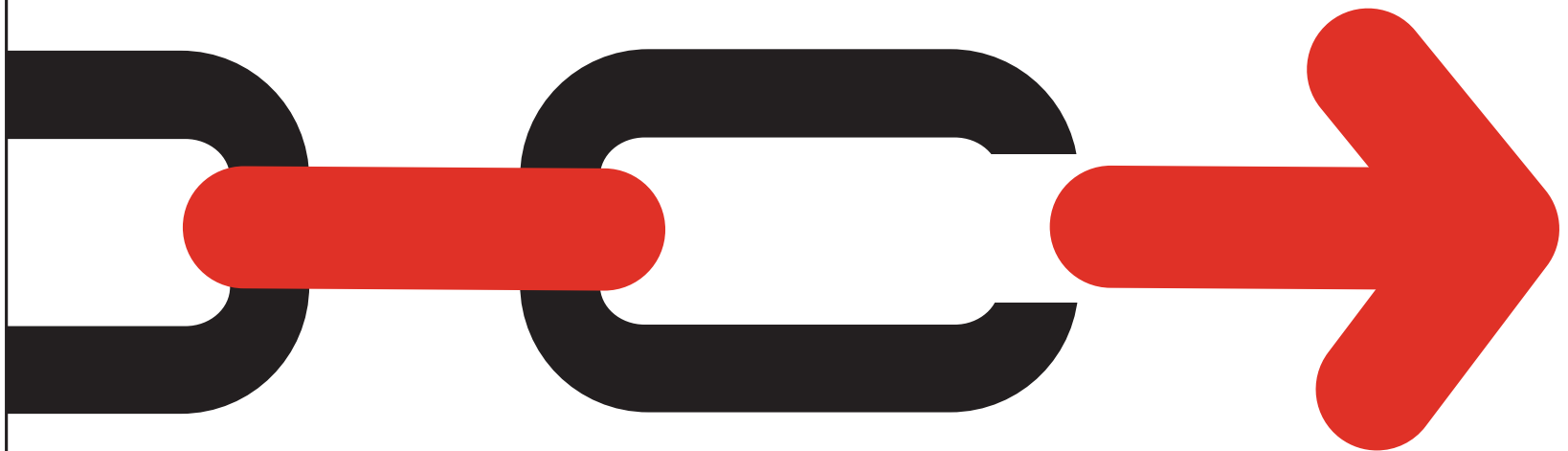
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Countrywide

yourmidweekblogger

This week's contribution is from a Thanet district councillor, but his message is for us all



It's time we raised the flag in celebration of our own culture

THIS year's onslaught of green, black and white on our streets to mark St Patrick's Day is now almost a month behind us.

It is always a great occasion, usually accompanied by a few hangovers, but generally also an air of *bonhomie* and goodwill – and a welcome slice of extra business for struggling pubs and clubs in difficult trading conditions.

This makes me look forward, in anticipation, to England's National Day, St George's Day, which takes place on April 23, just a few short weeks away. April 23rd, I will say it again, because in recent surveys, many, particularly children, could not tell interviewers the date, though most knew the story of the dragon.

Even fewer, I suspect, could tell you much about the real St George, his exploits and career – which meant he spent none of his life here, is the patron saint of at least two other countries and was originally of Darian origin.

The devolution of power across the UK, with

stronger regional voices for Scotland and Wales, has seen a resurgence of interest in English nationalism, shorn, as we are, of the extra level of representation given over to our nearest neighbours.

Celtic and Welsh nationalism is encouraged, but for the English, apparently, a muted voice is all that is required.

We are constantly urged to respect the cultures of others, not frown or tut upon the practice of religions from far shores, which demand their cultural rights on our streets and in our public services.

But if you are English, and wish to promote Christian prayer, you are investigated for upsetting cultural sensitivities. And, of course, if you fly the cross of St George, you are labelled a racist... for celebrating the life and work of a Cappadocian (Turk)!

So I offer you a challenge. Find a way to celebrate St George's Day that does only good.

Have a meal where all the ingredients are produced in England, for example. Buy them locally, at the nearest farmers market, or your

high-street butcher or greengrocer, keeping the money in your local economy.

Demand the card shops stock St George's greetings cards; stand and cheer your local Scout troops on their St George's Day parade; wear red and white for the day; find a typically gentle English way of reminding all that we are proud of our heritage and our country.

Because it is only when we, the silent majority, do not stand up and make our voices and views known that others can take advantage of our peace and turn a day of national celebration into something less palatable.

Some eight years ago I decided to celebrate St George's Day with English food and drink, with the same small group of friends each year. With every passing year it has become more acceptable, enjoyable and common to hear of these celebrations taking place in typically English understated style and form.

It's time to bring this joy out of the closet and into the open. This April 23rd, cry God for Harry, England and St George, if only in the privacy of your own front room.

GET IN TOUCH...

LET US KNOW...

This is your community newspaper and we welcome all contributions. Tell us what you want to see more of in your newspaper and if you want to be the next blogger on this page, submit an article to us of about 500 words.

You can contact the editor **Dave Mairs**, on **01303 817022**, or email or write to him at the addresses below.

And don't forget, the award winning KOS Media has websites with the latest news and video. Go to www.kentnews.co.uk and then click on your area.



EMAIL US: We want your letters, your comments and views. Send your submissions to the editor: Dave.Mairs@kosmedia.co.uk

Write to: The Editor, Dave Mairs at: KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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*The Cinema and selected restaurants and bars will be open on Easter Sunday, check www.bluewater.co.uk for more details.

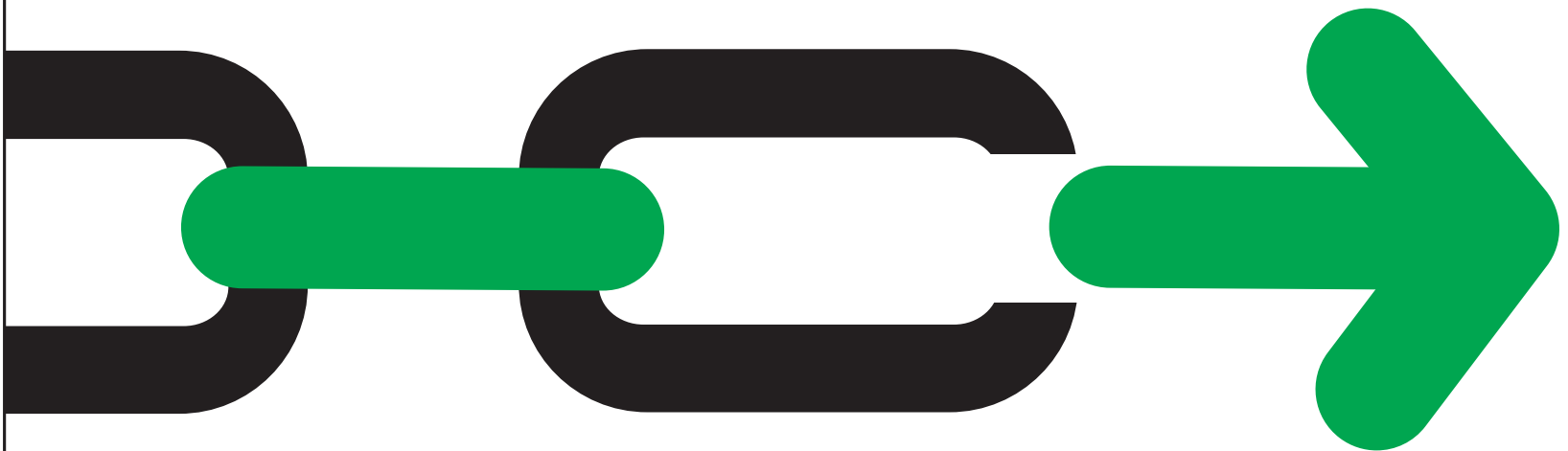
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Credit crunch unplugs Red List Live festival

THIS global recession has to be stopped.

First it brings the world's banks to their knees, and then it goes after the housing market and sends unemployment levels rocketing.

And now the all-consuming credit crunch has hit Kent's music festivals, with Red List Live postponing this summer's inaugural event until 2010. Something needs to be done.

Red List announced the postponement on Wednesday April 1 – prompting festival fans to dismiss the news as some sort of April Fool's

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

publicity stunt. But a spokesman soon said: "We are deeply saddened to announce that Red List has taken the tough decision to postpone our first festival until 2010."

"This is due to a number of factors, including the high risk of holding an event in the current economic climate, and the impact of increased capacity at established local festivals such as The Hop Farm."

"We took the decision at this early stage,

before final acts were booked, full promotion began, and site work undertaken in order to protect Red List Live's ability to host live events in the future."

"Red List Live still plans to hold a series of smaller events this summer, with some of the bands already booked, before returning as a festival next year as part of our five-year plan."

"All ticket holders have been fully refunded, and as a thank you for their support will be invited, free of charge to one of our upcoming events."

Fellow Kent music festival organisers said

they were shocked by Red List's postponement but said the market had become saturated in recent years.

Lounge on the Farm's Matt Gough said: "It's definitely a more competitive market than it was when we started in 2006. Outdoor events seem to be something of a fashion. But it's healthy competition. Making sure what you do is unique, interesting and fun will see you good."

Sellindge Music Festival's Ben Wells added: "The festival market has become increasingly competitive over the last few years not only in Kent, but throughout the country."

"This fact alone makes the task of selling tickets more and more difficult. Put that saturated level of public choice into the context of a global recession and there's no wonder many events are struggling."

Both festivals played down the effect Red List's cancellation will have on their ticket sales but said they were looking forward to the summer.

LOTF's Matt Gough said: "Ultimately what's happened with Red List Live is a shame as it can have a bit of a negative effect on the Kent festival scene – it certainly doesn't fill people with confidence. But I think there's an excellent offering of live music in the county this summer and I'm sure we're all in for a very enjoyable time."

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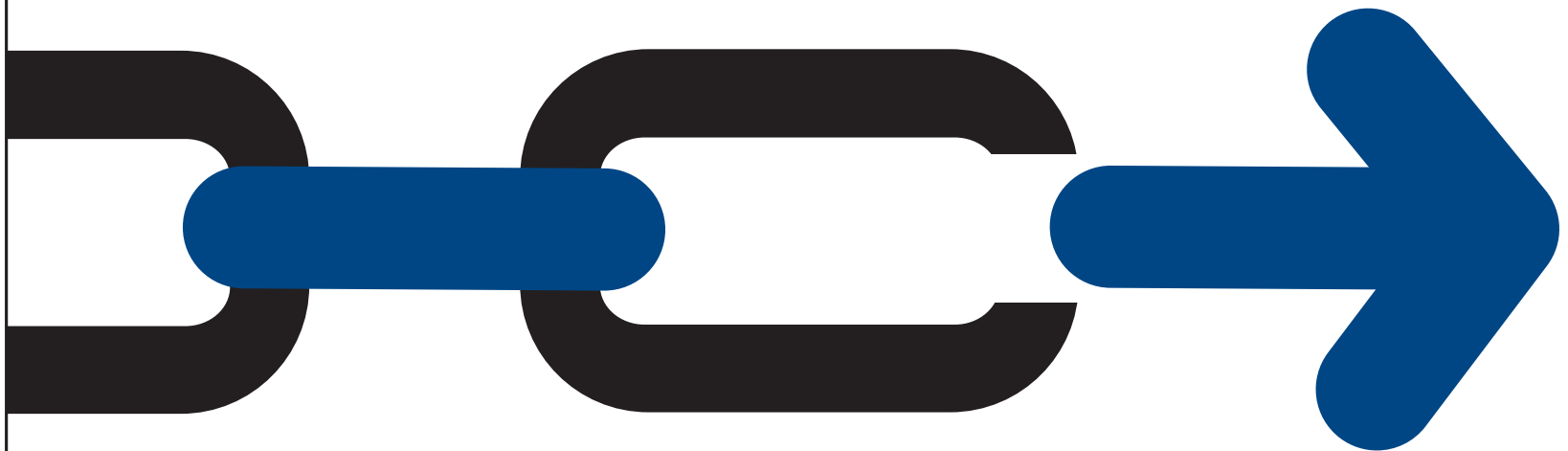
MAKE NO MISTAKE: The four-piece group rock out at Live @ Zebra Bar



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- 2 The Suspects - He Said (from Margate)
- 3 Timothy Edwards - Escape The Season (from Maidstone)
- 4 Freefall - Pack Up Your Things (from Bromley)
- 5 Directions - Golden Light (from Maidstone)

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TALK TIME

DEVSIRI HEWAVIDANA

East Kent founder of United Kingdom Friends of Galle in Southern Sri Lanka, a charity which helps victims of the 2004 Asian tsunami



How did the charity start?

I was born in Galle and most of my friends and family are there. When I turned on the TV on Boxing Day 2004 to see those terrible Tsunami images, with passengers at Galle bus station being swept away in the raging waters, I knew at once that I had to do something to help.

Many of my friends and family died in the disaster. For all the millions of pounds donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee, it quickly became apparent that the money was not getting through to those who needed it. Business colleagues urged me to start my own charity to help the victims directly.

What sort of work does the charity carry out in Sri Lanka?

Our first priority was to build houses for tsunami families. Now our focus is on providing scholarships and shoes for poor children and facilities for schools.

Only last summer I handed over a brand-new library and classroom to a rural school where the best classroom was little more than a cowshed.

We now have 167 children, some of them orphans, happily going to school thanks to the 1,000 rupees a month (£5) scholarships given by UKFG donors.

Our aim is to help them until they go to university. Unlike big charities, our donors can see the end-result of their donation, be it a bright child doing well at school or 300 children all proudly walking with new shoes.

Some of our supporters go to Sri Lanka on holiday and meet the children at the same time. It is so rewarding on both sides.

YOUR LETTERS

Town's pirate days deserved a mention

I found the article about the offshore pirate radio days of the 1960s interesting.

It was clearly from a press release supporting the newly-released film *The Boat That Rocked*, a comedy based loosely on Radio Caroline.

The article ignored the significant part that Folkestone played in the offshore pirate radio era of the 1960s.

Several pirates were based on the old Thames estuary forts – one of these stations had its registered office in Oxford Terrace, Folkestone, (now demolished) and later at Queen's House Guildhall Street, now used by the county council. Folkestone fishing boat skipper Harry Fetherbee, also known as Tom Pepper, was killed along with disc jockey Barry Hoy and radio engineer Martin Shaw when his boat, *David*, sank in heavy seas in December 1964.

The inquest recorded an open verdict on the incident.

John Thompson a former Canadian journalist and broadcaster, lived in Bouverie Square, in a property displaced by the new shopping centre. He built or adapted radio-transmitters used on some of the smaller pirate operations.

There were also numerous shareholders and advertisers based in Folkestone.

History seems to have forgotten the 60s fort-based pirate stations like Radio City, Invicta/390 and Radio Essex



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

Not only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think.

And remember, the website is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across your district. We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of your favourite local paper before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

On our website you can access the full newspaper in our acclaimed e-editions. Go to www.kentnews.co.uk and select your area.

which contributed to the eventual introduction of BBC Radio One, BBC local radio and the commercial radio stations all over the FM dial we now take for granted.

As for me... well, search my name on the internet. Old pirates are everywhere!

Andy Cadier
Folkestone

Residents making a Rype old stink

As a resident of Lydd, my wife and I find it distressing when we walk round The Rype with our dogs and find people are using rubbish bins, which were provided to keep The Rype tidy,

are being used to dispose of their household waste.

They are doing this despite being provided their own bins or sacks provided by the council for items such as dirty nappies, chicken carcasses and so on.

I can understand why they do it – so they don't have to put up with the smell, as the refuse is only collected once a fortnight.

The problem is that the dogs can smell it, as well as foxes, and they pull the sacks to pieces spilling out the contents all over The Rype.

There is a refuge tip on the edge of Lydd where every weekend people can depose of items they don't want hanging around too long.

Whoever is responsible, please stop doing it as it's making The Rype an unpleasant place to visit or walk round.

Resident of Lydd

Local solution to housing shortage

Regarding the shortage of affordable housing, it seems to an ordinary layman like me that there is an easy way to get over this problem:

- The Government should stop handing money over willy-nilly to banks and car companies etc.
- Money should be handed over to local authorities to be held in a separate account to fund the restoring of all the empty, run-down properties in their area.
- The empty properties should be requisitioned by the local authority at no cost to them.
- Work can be carried out by the unemployed on restoring these properties so they earn their benefits; there will also be

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worthwhile work for the unemployed construction workers.

- The restored houses are rented back to the the people looking for housing, so lowering the housing shortage and not building on green belt land.
- The owners of the property can have the chance of having their properties back as long as they reimburse council the cost of restoring the property, including all labour costs.
- Tenants can stay in the property at the same rent as long as they keep up payments.

Michael Bennett
Whitfield

I want to fly the flag for Michael Walsh

I am a member of the Friends of Lydd Airport Group (FLAG).

My personal and political views are my own. I do not rant and rave endlessly about every subject under the sun.

I do object to the personal 'round robin' attacks on Michael Walsh, whom I support.

I firmly believe that the MD of Lydd Airport, Air Marshall Clifford Spinks, has complied with every request in this saga, despite the changing of the goalposts.

The BNP raised some valid issues – they are also free to do this. I am proud to live in Lydd and love it.

I am well aware of the employment, environment and

wildlife issues where everything is quoted as rare and endangered.

What's next – the rare lesser-spotted three-legged limping toad?

Eric Meade
Lydd

Nothing honourable about MPs' expenses

MPs' expenses are a scandal. Every time you open the newspaper there is yet another sleaze or incompetence headline.

The British taxpayer is now even stumping up for MPs' families to travel first-class and watch porn.

MPs are elected as honourable members. Doesn't seem very honourable to me.

Cllr Julie Rook (Tory)
North Deal ward

Ashes already a cert to return home to Oz

In response to Harry Captain's letter about Kent County Cricket Club signing the Australian bowler Stuart Clark, if the Aussies had Rolf Harris, Kylie Minogue and Dame Edna in their Test side they would still beat England.

Our players are not up to the job. We need some new young blood – players with passion who want to play for their country, and not just there for the money.

I've followed England in Australia and the West Indies, and it was only the wonderful weather that made these trips memorable, not the cricket.

Kent have signed Clark because he is a good player, and Kent need good players. If they had not signed him, another county would have.

JS Smith
Hawkinge

Join us in run toward a meningitis vaccine

We would like to ask fitness-minded readers to run for Meningitis UK in this year's Great North Run.

General public entries are now full, but we still have a few places left in our Meningitis Musketeers team for the world's biggest half-marathon on Sunday, September 20.

Meningitis UK has a single focus: to find a vaccine to eradicate all forms of meningitis.

Tragically, meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia affect thousands of people in the UK every year and kill more children under five than any other infectious disease.

Our Search 4 a Vaccine Campaign aims to raise £7 million to fund research into eradicating meningococcal group B, the most common form of meningitis in the UK.

If you would like to help us achieve our vision, please phone Lauren on 0117 302 6191 for a sponsorship pack.

Lauren Vincent
Meningitis UK



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yourcompetition

Serving up a tasty Easter dish

TURKEY is not just for Christmas – with its variety of different cuts and uses, it's the perfect meat to enjoy all year round.

So with Easter just round the corner why not serve up a delicious turkey roast for all the family to enjoy?

Turkey is the only meat classed as a super-food and being low in fat as well as high in nutrients, vitamins and protein, it's no wonder why. It looks fantastic on the table, is easy to prepare and is enjoyed by young and old alike.

If you don't fancy cooking a whole bird, there are plenty of other turkey joints to choose from including a boned and rolled breast and an easy to carve crown.

After a wholesome turkey meal it's time to kick back and finish the day with a cup of tea and some delicious Easter cake.

To make cooking your turkey meal even easier, you will need some aluminium foil – BacoFoil is the strongest and most trusted brand, and is available in Extra Thick (ideal for grilling), Classic and Non-Stick varieties (ideal for everyday use) to make cooking and roasting fuss-free.

Additionally, BacoFoil Non-Stick makes your recipes even healthier as its unique coating means there's no need for additional fat or oil,



so it instantly reduces fat content without compromising on taste or appearance. Plus, as food doesn't stick to BacoFoil Non-Stick, the turkey comes out looking perfect.

We have teamed up with British Turkey and BacoFoil this Easter, to offer five of you the chance of winning a great prize. You could get your hands on some fantastic aluminium BacoFoil roasting trays and a roll of the all important extra strong BacoFoil Roasting Foil to help cook the turkey, as well as a beautiful tiered china cake stand and BacoFoil baking paper so you can enjoy an Easter tea in style. Also included are a British Turkey apron, shopping bag and copy of The Little Book of Great British Turkey Recipes.

To have a go at winning the lot all you have to do is simply answer the question below and



send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Easter Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is April 10, 2009.

Question: Which is the only meat classed as a superfood?

For great recipe ideas to serve this Easter go to www.britishturkey.co.uk/recipes.

To check out the entire Baco range and download your 20p off coupon log on to www.baco.co.uk.

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If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

GO WILD THIS EASTER!

AT HOWLETTS & PORT LYMPNE

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7th, 9th, 14th & 16th April 2009

Bring your family to Howletts Wild Animal Park this Easter and create fun animal masks, badges and much more!

Easter Egg Challenge

10th to 13th April 2009

Navigate your way around Howletts or Port Lympne with a souvenir map, collecting animal names to complete your challenge and claim your reward!

Prices for both events includes entry to the park.

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Laughter isn't a false economy

Political activist and funnyman Mark Thomas is touring his latest show, *It's the Stupid Economy!*, and wants your input to create a People's Manifesto to help the country

AFTER nearly 25 years of making people laugh and think at the same time, Mark Thomas is still making waves in the world of politics.

In his latest show, *It's The Stupid Economy!*, Thomas sets out to meet the people and gather together collective ideas about how we could make our country better. The comedian aims to create a People's Manifesto, which he will then 'road test' and see if he can make these ideas into reality.

Each audience will be asked to put forward its favourite ideas for dealing with the broken economy and the environment, giving Thomas something to work from as he attempts to bring about real change.

He is no stranger to making things happen, having been instrumental in bringing about a change in inheritance tax laws in 1998. Thomas fronted an investigation for Channel 4's *Dispatches* which uncovered the ways in which wealthy people had been avoiding inheritance tax by making their homes, art and furniture available for public viewing –

without telling anyone about it. In the following budget, the then-Chancellor Gordon Brown changed the law.

Born in South London in 1963, Thomas studied theatre arts at university and performed shows in miners' soup kitchens and fundraising events during the strike. Since taking to the stage as a comic in 1985, he has become arguably one of Britain's most prominent political activists.

With seven series of his own show, *The Mark Thomas Comedy Product*, on Channel 4 and a regular column in the *New Statesman* magazine, Thomas has made a career out of exposing injustice and scandal. His investigations have covered such diverse subjects as the use of torture and UK equipment in East Timor, Nestlé's change of labelling on baby milk in Africa, Coca Cola and the Immigration and Asylum Bill.

His activities reportedly led to a prominent politician asking civil servants to 'dig the dirt' on Thomas in 2001, but he has continued to investigate and demonstrate about issues such as anti-terror laws, arms dealing and nuclear weapons inspections.

In 2005 he became the Guinness

World Record Holder for the most political demonstrations in 24 hours. Other accolades include a Sony Radio Award, the UN Association Global Human Rights Defender Award, the Kurdish National Congress Medal of Honour and a Time Out Comedy Award. The third series of his television show received a special commendation at Amnesty International's media awards in 1999.

Last year Thomas was made an honorary doctor by Bradford University for his services to peace and his contribution as a comedian, political activist, presenter and investigative journalist, particularly for his campaigning on the ethics of the arms trade.

Mark Thomas will be at the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury on Thursday, April 23; the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone on Tuesday, April 28, and the Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on Tuesday, June 30.

MARK THOMAS

Various dates,
various venues



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Children will have the opportunity to step into the shoes of famous figures by taking part in live theatre. Young visitors can don the outfits of Robin Hood or Admiral Nelson and will be able to get their hands on helmets, shields, armour and weapons.

More entertainment will be provided by the resident jester and master medieval musician, while those who enjoy clowning around can learn some circus skills.

Tickets cost £10/£8 for adults and £6 for children or £25 for families.

For more information call 01304 211067 or visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/dovercastle.



EASTER ACTIVITIES

Friday to Monday,
April 10-13
Walmer Castle and Gardens

TRADITIONAL Easter fun is on offer at Walmer Castle this weekend with lots to entertain the family.

From 10am to 5pm each day, young visitors are invited to take part in a special Easter trail, which requires them to hop, skip and jump around the grounds to hunt for hidden clues. Those who successfully complete the trail will earn a chocolate treat and quiz sheets are changed every day, with questions to suit different age groups.

Each afternoon storyteller Tony Cooper will work his magic and transport audiences into an enchanted world of fairy tales and folklore. Hear all about the adventures of marvellous



Picture: KENT TOURISM ALLIANCE

characters such as Queen Silver-Tree and Princess Gold-Tree and get ready to participate too.

Children can burn off their Easter eggs with a run around the castle's gardens and adults can enjoy a stroll

exploring in the beautiful grounds.

Admission costs £6.70/£5.70 for adults, £3.40 for children and £16.80 for families. For details call 0870 3331183 or see www.english-heritage.org.uk.

BUNNY TRAILS

Saturday, April 11
The Secret Gardens of Sandwich

THE Easter Bunny has paid a visit to the Secret Gardens and left a series of clues for young treasure hunters to uncover.

Children can follow the Hunt the Bunny Trail between 11am and 3pm – if they discover where the rabbit is hiding, they will be rewarded with a delicious chocolate prize provided by The Chocolate Room, Charing.

The Secret Gardens are the perfect setting for Easter fun and will impress visitors of all ages with their beauty. Created by 19th century architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and his famous gardening partner Gertrude Jekyll, the 3.5 acre gardens feature flower beds, sweeping lawns and tree-lined avenues. The beautifully designed grounds perfectly complement



Lutyens' Grade One listed Georgian manor house.

Admission costs £4.50 for adults, £3 for children and is free for those aged under six.

The garden is open from 10am to 5pm. For more information visit the website at www.the-secretgardens.co.uk or call 01304 619919.

LIVE & LOCAL

Go off the rails when you hunt for the eggs

GET on track for a great day out with East Kent Railway's special events.

From Good Friday to Easter Monday, the railway in Shepherdswell will be offering a free gift to all fare-paying children, along with entry into the egg hunt. All Day Rover Fares cost £7/£6 for adults, £4 for children, £18 for families of four, free for under-tuos, call 01304 832042 or see www.eastkentrailway.co.uk.

Trail along the cliffs to find yourself a prize

FIND out what Trusty the Hedgehog is up to on the White Cliffs Easter trail.

The fun trail will keep families busy during the holidays and there will be a chocolate prize for every completed sheet. Visitors can take part from the White Cliffs Visitor Centre from 11am to 3.30pm, from Tuesday to Friday. Trail sheets cost £1.50, call 01304 202756 or email whitecliffs@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Put all the pieces back together at museum

TRY your hand at a variety of jigsaws and design your own at Dover Museum.

The Family Day will be at the museum next Wednesday as part of the temporary exhibition Toys and Games.

The workshop is free and open from 10am to 4.30pm. Normal admission rates apply.

For more details, call 01304 201066 or visit www.dovermuseum.co.uk.

Band aim to make rock User Friendly at the inn

HEAR classic rock music at its very best when User Friendly perform in Dover.

More information about the five-piece is at www.userfriendlyband.co.uk. Fans can also buy copies of the band's nine-track CD from the website.

User Friendly will be playing at the Park Inn in Park Place on Saturday. For more information about the venue, call 01304 203300.

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Thurs 23rd April - 7.00pm Doors - Tickets **£19.50** (Standing)



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Audience's can relive the spirit of the Forties in a wonderful afternoon of Hits from the Blitz, with lots of sing-along tunes that will bring back warm memories. The celebration show pays tribute to the legendary stars of the war years including Vera Lynn, Donald Peers, Gracie Fields and Bing Crosby.

Tuesday 14th April - 2.30pm
Tickets **£11.00** concessions available



THE LEVELLERS PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

Brighton based folk-punk band, the Levellers, released 'Letters from the Underground' - in August 2008. Described as one of the most politically committed and musically incisive albums of their career, the band will be playing tracks from the new album on this tour plus old favorites.

Thursday 23rd April - 7.00pm (doors)
Tickets **£19.50** (standing)



BY ALISON PURDY

WHEN I was told we were going for a walk in the island's interior on our first day on the South Pacific island of Tahiti, I imagined a gentle stroll through the lush green jungle that covers much of the island.

I hadn't imagined that a couple of hours later I would be waist-deep in gushing water dressed in a wet suit with a harness strapped round me, scrambling up a ravine.

Like most people, my image of Tahiti and her 118 islands scattered over five archipelagos in the South Pacific was of sun-soaked shores lined with bamboo bungalows perched on stilts

There's more to Tahiti's many islands

over turquoise-blue sea. I expected the sort of destination that mainly attracts honeymooners drawn to the island by its romantic isolation.

That is certainly on offer. However, as my day spent clambering up a volcanic lava-tube and hoisting myself up waterfalls proved, there is far more to the islands.

I had never been canyoning before and the experience was both terrifying and exhilarating. When I did manage to look up from where I was putting my feet, I was stunned by the incredible beauty that surrounded me.

Green mountains densely covered in what looked like large broccoli heads sloped up to

the sky. Below, the land dropped down dramatically to the sea.

In an effort to promote Tahiti's unique cultural identity, the Radisson Plaza Resort Hotel in the bustling capital city Papeete, has its own full-time 'cultural animator' who puts on daily demonstrations of traditional dance and crafts as an introduction to Tahitian culture.

The day after our canyoning adventure, we boarded a sea catamaran for the half hour trip from Tahiti to the even greener island of Moorea. The island's Sofitel beach resort does live up to the honeymoon brochure billing with individual bungalows all either standing on

stilts over the water or lining the beach front with the most breathtaking ocean views.

Our next stop was the geographically-unusual island of Rangiroa – which consists of a string of coral encircling a turquoise lagoon and is one of the world's most popular diving destinations and famous for the black pearl.

Tahiti and her collection of islands may be the epitome of the South Seas holiday hide-away – but those keen to do more than lie on the beach enjoy a fantastic choice of leisure options, from scuba diving to hiking in the mountains and searching for that elusive and perfect black pearl.

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FACT FILE: TAHITI

Time difference	-11 hours (GMT)
Language	French
Largest city	Papeete
Population	178,130
Currency	Pacific Franc (approx 130 to £1)
Religion	Christian
Climate	Tropical

Travel details

Alison Purdy flew to Papeete with British Airways and Air Tahiti Nui via New York and LA and she was a guest of Radisson Plaza Resort, Tahiti, Sofitel Moorea Beach Resort, Moorea and Raira Lagon, Rangiroa.

Operator Turquoise Holidays offers a 10-night package to Tahiti from £2,295 (two sharing), including Virgin flights ex-Heathrow to Papeete with Virgin and Air Tahiti Nui (via LA), three nights at Radisson Plaza Tahiti (room-only), four nights at Sofitel Moorea (room only), three nights at Relais de Josephine (half-board), domestic flights, transfers.

Leisure activities include a day's canyoning bookable through Mato-Nui Excursions, with picnic, £73; Moorea Hiking is booked directly through Tohie'a Excursions; hike to pass of the three pine trees, with picnic, £43; snorkelling at Blue Lagoon on Rangiroa, £44.

Turquoise Holidays reservations: 01494 678 400 and www.turquoiseholidays.co.uk.

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Essential guide to where you can save

■ St George's Chevrolet in Margate is offering free three-year's servicing extended AA roadside membership with every new Chevrolet purchased

■ Bourne Road Garage in Crayford is offering free car mats with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ GC Stevens & Son garden machinery and Woodstoves store in Sittingbourne is offering 10 per cent off all garden machinery

■ Oliver Carpets in Ramsgate and Herne Bay is offering 15 per cent off when you spend more than £600

■ Spand Motors in Hythe is offering 10 per cent off MOTs when pre-booked

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering complimentary day pass for the Leisure Club

■ Aylesford Self Storage in Aylesford is offering free man and a van for clients renting storage for longer than three months

■ County Garage in Herne Bay is offering 15 per cent off any Ford accessories. Includes car mats, mudflaps, boot protectors, scuff plates, alloy wheels, roof bars, chrome tailpipe finisher, dog guards, roof boxes, parking sensors

■ Owlers Nook in Broadstairs is offering a 25 per cent discount on a second matching size 2008 christmas fragrance when you purchase any 2009 yankee candle at full price

■ Maidstone Kia Motors in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all accessories

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Business health is your wealth

FOR most of us, our personal prosperity depends on working for a successful employer.

When the business we work for gets into trouble, the employees start to feel the pain.

Redundancies, cutbacks, longer working hours, and pay cuts are becoming commonplace issues in workplaces across the county.

That's why we have produced this Money Matters guide aimed at offering some timely advice to businesses fighting their way through the recession.

We have also included some top tips for individuals trying to balance their own books and plan for their safer financial future.

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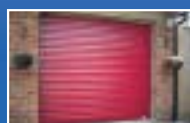
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Be prepared, it will be to your credit

By **TONY PATEY**

EXPERTS are predicting that more than 40,000 companies will be declared insolvent during 2009 – a rise of 35 per cent in last year, and 62 per cent higher than in 2007.

To help ensure your firm doesn't become one of the victims, national insurance broker Bluefin Insurance Services, which has offices in Gravesend, Maidstone and Tonbridge, has drawn up a list of protection tips for recession-battered firms.

Peter Castle, executive director, pinpointed, for example, money owed as a crucial factor that could affect cash flow.

"Money owed may represent as much as 40 per cent of a company's actual assets.

"What would happen to your business if a major supplier or creditor went under? As insolvencies climb, having adequate credit insurance could mean the difference between your business surviving or failing."

His six top tips to keep one step ahead of the increased dangers facing businesses in 2009 are:

- Take a long-term view over redundancies. Cutting too much from your skills base may create irreversible workload pressures.



POCKET WATCH: Take appropriate steps to see your business survive economic downturn

- Ensure your business employs best practice in employment matters. Recent rises in statutory redundancy pay rates mean layoffs are more expensive than ever.

- Take care when changing your insurance cover, and do so only if you are sure it will not compromise your ability to win new business. Many organisations, particularly in the public sector, have strict insurance requirements included in their supplier contracts.

- Be realistic about any insurance premium savings obtainable from changes to your cover. Remember that legal and regulatory risk exposure does not recede in a recession.

- Don't give staff a reason to defect to rivals by cutting back on training and risk management. Dissatisfied staff are more likely to try to commit fraud, which is on the rise as the economy worsens.

- Credit insurance can provide vital protection from the potentially terminal disruption of bad debt and late payment. Make sure you have adequate cover.

Mr Castle said: "With professional advice, awareness of the risks ahead and perhaps just a little bit of luck, well-prepared businesses have every chance of surviving the downturn."

Your guide to get through the recession

A NEW guide to help businesses in Kent find their way through the economic crisis has been published by the South East England Development Agency (Seeda).

It's called Open for Business – A Guide to Business Support in the South East and it offers businesses a simple map to what is on offer through Seeda and its regional partners.

Seeda said it is working with Jobcentre Plus, the Learning and Skills Council and the Government's Real Help for Businesses Now scheme to provide help in areas from accessing finance through to tackling redundancy.

Many of these initiatives are available through Business Link, the Seeda-funded business support service, which also offers free business 'health checks'.

Jeff Alexander, Seeda's executive director for global competitiveness, said: "We are now focusing our efforts on helping South East businesses through these extremely challenging times.

"This package of measures can make a real difference, and thousands of businesses have already taken advantage.

"I would strongly urge any business feeling the effects of the downturn to get in touch with Business Link to see what help is available."

For further information, Business Link is on 0845 6009006.

For copies of the Open for Business booklet, send an e-mail detailing the number of copies required and recipient address to pressoffice@seeda.co.uk.

Seeda is a government-funded agency responsible for the sustainable economic development and regeneration of the South East.

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Ready for the new employment law?



Solicitor Nadia Omar offers this checklist for recession-hit firms who will also be facing new employment law rules coming in early in April

The New ACAS Code of Practice

The Employment Act 2008 will repeal the controversial statutory dispute resolution procedures.

It will be replaced by the new ACAS Code of Practice on disciplinary and grievance procedures.

This is expected to reduce the regulatory burden for employers and provide greater flexibility for managing workplace disputes.

The code only applies to disciplinary and grievance matters and does not apply to redundancy dismissals.

Employers are encouraged to resolve disputes informally and consider the use of mediation.

Employers should carry out the disciplinary and grievance process without delay and ensure all matters are fully investigated.

Failure to follow the disciplinary procedure will no longer render a dismissal automatically unfair and employers will not be penalised for technical breaches of the code.

Employers should beware: grievances have been extended to cover all concerns, problems or complaints, and employees no longer need to raise a grievance and wait 28 days prior to issuing a claim.

Tribunals will have the power to increase or decrease an award by 25 per cent for an unreasonable failure to comply with the code.

Trade union membership rules

The implementation of section 19 of the act will entitle a trade union to exclude or expel members who belong to a political party such as the BNP.

To safeguard individuals from arbitrary abuse, union rules must allow it, a fair procedure must be followed and it must not result in the loss of an individual's livelihood or other "exceptional hardship".

The low number of claims that are lodged

against unions for wrongful expulsion suggests that this amendment is unlikely to have much practical effect.

The Employment Tribunals (Constitution and Rules of Procedure) (Amendment) Regulations 2008

The regulations remove a judge's discretion not to issue a default judgment if a response is not filed.

This makes it essential for respondents to file a response within the 28-day time limit. Failure to do so will bar the respondent from submitting a defence and may result in the claim being determined without a hearing.

The rules relating to the withdrawal and dismissal of claims have been clarified.

If a claim has been withdrawn, respondents should apply to have the claim dismissed within 28 days. This will bar a claimant from re-lodging the claim.

Furthermore, proceedings which have been withdrawn and settled through ACAS will be automatically dismissed by the tribunal. This will avoid the need to make a separate dismissal application.

New rules on electronic communication will assist parties relying on evidence by disabled witnesses or those abroad who are unable to attend the hearing.

Employment Tribunals Act 1996 (Tribunal Composition) Order 2009

This will enable cases of unpaid holiday pay to be heard by an employment judge sitting alone.

Claims are usually heard by an employment judge and two lay members.

This order should result in such cases being dealt with faster and more efficiently.

• *Nadia Omar is a solicitor in the employment department at law firm Thomson Snell & Passmore, which has offices in Tunbridge Wells and Greenhithe.*

Taxman will be getting tough

KENT companies could soon find they're getting unexpected visits from the taxman as HM Revenue and Customs picks up tough new powers to enter business premises.

Steve Carpenter, tax manager at Maidstone-based DSH Chartered accountants and business advisors, warned: "From April 1, HMRC will have a new code of powers and penalties that will make it easier for them to obtain information and, if irregularities are found, to match a penalty to the seriousness of the mistake or omission."

The powers being given to HMRC, which aim to identify situations where there is a greater risk of mistakes being made in the completion of tax returns, will enable officers to:

- Obtain documents from a business at any time, even if a return has yet to be filed.



ADVICE: Steve Carpenter

- Request information from third parties, such as banks.

- Enter business premises to inspect the premises, business assets and documents.

Mr Carpenter continued: "Although genuine mistakes will not incur a charge, penalties will be charged as a percentage of any additional tax due and are banded depending upon circumstances."

"For example, if the mistake arises because you

failed to take reasonable care in completing your tax return, the penalty will be up to 30 per cent, but if it is a deliberate understatement that you attempt to conceal, the penalty could be up to 100 per cent.

"The concept of 'taking reasonable care' is key to the value of the penalty and will vary from taxpayer to taxpayer."

"A large company with its own accounts department will be expected to have a higher standard of accuracy in its record keeping than an individual, but both must keep adequate records to enable them to complete the required returns and to spot a significant error."

"The processes are becoming more structured and so, to avoid penalties in the future, it is important to ensure your records are adequate and to seek advice for your particular situation."

By **PAM LOCH** and **ANDREW BAYJOU**

EMPLOYERS need to brace themselves now for more employment law changes.

Some changes will have an impact on how businesses have to manage their employees, while others will result in a greater financial burden on businesses.

On April 6 the Employment Act 2008 abolishes the much-criticised statutory disciplinary, dismissal and grievance procedures, and businesses will be required to comply with the new ACAS Code of Practice.

The code will not be legally binding but it will be regarded as best practice and it will be used to determine whether a fair procedure has been followed.

Defending an employment claim will become easier, though Employment Tribunals will no longer be compelled to decide that a dismissal was automatically unfair if the employer failed to follow one part of the old procedure.

Interestingly the code will not apply to all dismissals. For example it won't apply to redundancies.

There are also complex transitional provisions and employers should exercise caution and take early advice as a failure to follow the code could result in an employment tribunal increasing an award of compensation by up to 25 per cent.

Aside from the demise of the statutory procedures, other changes impacting on businesses from April 6 include increases in:

- Statutory Sick Pay to £79.15 a week
- Statutory Maternity, Paternity and Adoption Pay to £123.06 a week.

These increases are in line with the annual changes the Government announces in these benefits and in certain cases the payments can be recovered from the Government. Rumours abound that statutory redundancy pay may be increased from the present cap of £350 a week – but these remain rumours at present.

Aside from those benefits increasing, holiday entitlement is also increasing. From April 1 the

NEW LAW: From April 1 the minimum paid holiday for workers will increase to 5.6 weeks or 28 days each year



Businesses prepare for the tide of change

minimum paid holiday for workers increased to 5.6 weeks or 28 days each year. This should be pro-rated for part-time workers.

For businesses already offering workers 28 days including bank holidays there is no change.

For those that don't offer this at the moment though, they should review their terms and conditions to ensure 28 days holiday is the minimum entitlement.

April also sees the extension of the right to request flexible working to parents of children up to 16 years of age being introduced.

Businesses should ensure that their employment policies and procedures reflect this new right. Although it does not give a right to flexible working, businesses should prepare themselves for an increase in requests to work flexibly from employees with children

over six years of age.

From April 6, a failure to pay the national minimum wage to workers could result in a criminal penalty and a claim for underpayment of arrears plus a financial penalty.

HM Revenue and Customs will have compliance officers with additional inspection powers to search, seize and remove documents.

National minimum wage offences will carry criminal penalties ranging from £100 to £5,000.

Some of these changes could have a negative impact on businesses and increase their costs at an already difficult time. However the abolition of the statutory procedures should be a very positive step for businesses going forward.

• Pam Loch and Andrew Bayjou of employment law firm Loch Associates.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ H&H Flooring in Deal is offering free accessories with all laminate flooring

■ KOS is offering £200 saving on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine only £99.99 inc p&p RRP £299.99

■ Brownhills Motor Homes in Canterbury is offering an additional £507 allowance on your part exchange

■ Theatre Royal in Margate is offering two tickets for £20 Digby Fairweather's Half Dozen – legendary jazz, Saturday, May 2

■ KOS is offering a traditional feather mattress with the innovative mattress topper from only £39.99 save over 50 per cent

■ Maidstone Kia Motors in Maidstone is offering MOT for only £45

■ KOS is offering five Global knives set, scissors and block. Only £199.99, save £150

■ Bourne Road Garage in Crayford is offering a free tank of fuel with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ Spand Motors in Hythe is offering free mini valet with any full service

■ Living Out Log Cabins in Chestfield, Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off

■ Aylesford Self Storage is offering free used boxes for all storage customers

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Renting or buying? Move your business into the right property

■ BY TONY PATEY

MANY firms battling the recession are thinking of moving – but a commercial property is a major undertaking not to be taken lightly as it can affect a company's growth for a long time.

Experts say there are as many opinions regarding buying or renting commercial properties as there are commercial properties – so before you decide which way to jump, your business should take into account its own strengths, weaknesses and future plans.

What suits others won't necessarily suit you. Your premises may turn out to be your business's largest fixed asset, which makes your choice of whether to rent or buy property an important one.

There are many reasons for renting, including:

- Saving capital outlay
- Flexibility of location
- Savings on maintenance and other costs.

As a rule of thumb, renting is a good option for new businesses as it cuts down on the capital outlay needed and potentially saves having to borrow as much capital from other sources.

If you have a low cash flow and prefer to keep your property costs flexible, then renting may be the best option as it releases more money to invest in equipment, stock and employees' salaries.

Renting also enables your business the flexibility to relocate at relatively short notice should you need to expand or follow business trends.

The responsibility for maintenance, fixtures and security also rest with the owner of the property, taking away the uncertainty of these costs and helping you to budget better.

One downside of renting is the possibility of future rent rises, so it is important to know how and when the rent will be reviewed, prior to signing the lease.

The main advantages of buying are:

- Owning an asset
- Flexibility of the space to suit the business
- Tax advantages

In the long term a property that has been purchased with a commercial mortgage has the potential to increase in value, which strengthens your assets.



EASY?: If you have a low cash flow and prefer to keep your property costs flexible, then renting may be the best option

A mortgage is usually the highest fixed cost of any business, so if you are a company with a good cash flow and relatively low fixed costs then purchasing a property may well be right for you.

When you own your commercial property you can develop the space as you require with the possibility of subletting any unused room, giving your business extra income.

Generally mortgage repayments are at similar levels to rental payments, and although mortgage interest rates may increase on a commercial mortgage these are tax-deductible.

When you own a property the possibility of large rent increases is removed, which enables you to budget better and provides greater security.

One of the downsides of buying is you'll need to come up with a large deposit, and in the initial stages of any business this money could be put to other more immediate business uses.

It also becomes more difficult to relocate your business should circumstances change.

Getting out of a rental agreement is far easier and usually a lot quicker than selling premises or re-letting.

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Where there's a will there's a better way

WE can always be sure of two things – recession or no recession – and that's taxes and the Grim Reaper.

And in a time of economic turmoil you don't want your family having to cope with your tangled estate if you drop off the twig and don't leave a will.

Those of us who have come across the chaos which can happen when someone dies intestate invariably have some awful tales to tell of 'what went to whom' – and why.

Intestacy

With intestacy rules having changed recently, the picture is likely to become even more confusing, says Chatham-based law firm Stephens & Son.

Although people who inherit under the rules have not changed, the amounts involved have.

If you are married with children, the first £250,000 of your estate will now go to your surviving spouse, with the rest divided among your children.

However, the picture gets much more complex if you don't have a spouse or civil partner, or children – as surviving parents and siblings are then brought into the equation.

Ultimately, half-brothers and sisters and cousins can fall into the frame if there is no closer next of kin.

Stephens solicitor Caroline Brooks-Johnson

■ BY TONY PATEY

said: "Too many people still think that it doesn't matter to them what happens to their estate once they are dead and gone.

"In reality, it can be a costly and time-consuming process for surviving relatives to deal with intestacy and all too often it leads to family disputes and bitter arguments.

"Making a will and keeping it up-to-date is the only sure-fire way of ensuring your legacy is left to those whom you want to inherit.

"Long-lost cousins that you fell out with more than 20 years ago often emerge from the woodwork when there's no will to be found.

"If you die without a valid will your estate will be administered in accordance with the intestacy rules.

"This is a statutory 'pecking order' which dictates who gets what from your estate and who is entitled to administer that estate.

"By their very nature the intestacy rules must be general and it therefore stands to reason that they will not be suitable for everyone."

Wills can be used to encompass not only who you would like to administer your estate upon your death and to list your beneficiaries, but also to appoint guardians of children under 18, make personal gifts (of jewellery, for example), set out your funeral wishes, incorporate tax saving measures and deal with a whole host of business and family matters.



BLACK AND WHITE: Making a will and keeping it up-to-date is the only way of ensuring your legacy is left to who you want

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Avalone Flooring Ltd in Strood is offering 10 per cent off carpets

■ Wells Clinic in Ashford is offering £25 off removal of skin tags, moles, verrucas, warts, red veins, cysts and skin peels

■ KOS is offering an Alex classic light – one of the world's best reading lights from £84.99 save up to £30

■ Bones on Beds in Herne Bay is offering 10 per cent off mattresses

■ KOS is offering a porous seepage hose, save time and money and use up to 70 per cent less water. From only £19.99 save £35 on RRP

■ Brownhills Motor Homes in Canterbury is offering £507 to spend instore when you buy a new or used motorhome

■ Blakes Hair & Beauty, Canterbury, is offering 50 per cent off first appointment (cut and style)

■ KOS is offering luxury Egyptian cotton 400-count percale bed linen. Save 40 per cent

■ Theatre Royal in Margate is offering two tickets for £20 New English Contemporary Ballet, June 12

■ KOS is offering a Karcher pressure washer kit £99.99 including free accessories save £116

■ Lexterten furniture store in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £300 off all dining suite orders over £2,000

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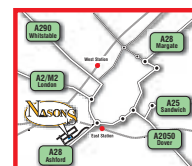


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Keep things sweet and safe at work

By **TONY PATEY**

IN recession business can't afford to trip up – literally.

So Canterbury chocolate shop, Madame Oiseau, has teamed up with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to showcase good practice as part of an anti-slips, trips and falls campaign.

Kent's HSE principal inspector, Mike Walters, said the food manufacturing sector is one of the high risk areas of work.

The new Shattered Lives campaign aims to cut the number of slips, trips and falls in the workplace. Last year in Kent, 1,107 people suffered an injury because of these at work.

Madame Oiseau has a flawless health and safety record since setting up shop in 2005. To protect staff, the shop takes simple measures to clear up any spills immediately and keeps work areas clean and tidy.

The shop is a member of Produced in Kent, an organisation promoting local businesses and raising awareness of local food produce available to Kent's residents.

Mr Walters said: "It is good to see that a small business has put in place simple measures to help prevent this type of accident."

"Workers at Madame Oiseau have adopted the 'see it, sort it' approach. If someone sees a spillage on the floor, they clear it up."



HEALTH AND SAFETY: Madame Oiseau has teamed up with the Health and Safety Executive to promote safety at work; and (below) chocolates from the shop

"This is a common-sense approach to a serious health and safety issue."

Sandrine May, owner of Madame Oiseau, said: "We are pleased to support this HSE campaign to encourage workplace safety."

"We are proud of our health and safety record and wish for other small businesses like ours to take note of the statistics and advice to ensure their staff are also safe at work."

Fatalities and serious injuries arising from slips, trips and fall incidents cost the South East around £78,615,000 last year.

Three people died and 1,830 suffered major injury as a result of a slip, trip or fall from height in workplaces in the region last year.

A further 3,473 sustained injuries that kept them off work for three days or more.



Digby Fairweather's Half Dozen



A must see show, if you love Jazz or not

Digby Fairweather (now celebrating thirty years in the music business) continues to lead Britain's most exciting young jazz band, his 'Half Dozen'. First formed in 1995 the 'Half Dozen' has been constantly praised for its versatility, professionalism and showmanship.

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Keep good credit in tough times with these top tips

WITH the economy in decline, businesses should be concentrating on getting back to basics and revisiting well known and established ways of doing business successfully and economically.

Follow these top tips to help your business through the current challenges and make them standard practice in future:

Terms and conditions of business

- Review your existing terms and conditions to ensure your business is adequately protected, alternatively put fresh terms and conditions in place.

- Ensure the 'battle of the forms' is won, impose your terms and conditions at each stage of the contract formation process, especially when providing samples and quotes.

- In the event that delivered goods are not paid for, ensure they remain your property by including a 'retention of title' clause within your terms and conditions.

- Agree to the terms of payment before orders are placed, including both the time for payment and the right to charge for interest in the event of late or non payment. You have the option to charge interest for late payment of invoices either under the terms of the contract or under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998.

- Effective terms and conditions could save your business from becoming engaged in costly litigation.

By **KERRY POOLE**
and **MARIE THERESE**

Receiving payment on time

- Issue clear and accurate invoices on time and always follow them up.

- Offer as many methods of payment as you can.

- Send letters at predetermined intervals which ask for written confirmation of satisfactory delivery of the goods/services, indicate the amount outstanding, and demand payment in accordance with your terms.

- If you state that you will be instructing solicitors if payment is not received, make sure you do so and promptly. Your credibility is key to you getting paid.

- Record the date and outcome of all contact made with the debtor.

- Be proactive and chase late payments, late payments and bad debts lead to liquidity and cash-flow problems, and may even force a business into insolvency.

Good credit control

- Know your debtor – do credit checks, stick to credit limits and monitor the behaviour of your debtors.

- If you are having difficulty in recovering what is owed to you, seek assistance quickly.

- When dealing with outstanding payments decide whether it is worth a fight.

- Consider your customer and, if they are key to your business, approach it diplomatically.

- Listen to your debtor and, if there is a com-

plaint, be objective and resolve it.

- If you decide to instruct debt collectors ensure you make checks before using an agency.

- Find out what methods the agency uses. Maintaining business relationships and a good reputation are as important to your business as getting paid. Remember that unlawful methods such as harassment could lead to you being liable and can constitute a criminal offence.

- Avoid the last resort. Explain what steps you intend to take and try to reach an agreement. Recovery without legal proceedings is invariably the most desirable option.

- Always try to have a meaningful dialogue with your customer to find out why the debt has not been paid. If possible, consider offering instalments as a payment option. If you have a good system for dealing with debtors, paying someone else to collect your debts will hopefully be a rarely used last resort.

- Managing credit and cash flow in tougher economic conditions is as important, if not more, as obtaining sales.

- Make sure you take the time to deal with this critical issue.

- Lastly, make sure the payment terms you agree with your suppliers match, as far as possible, your own cash-flow forecasts. If your suppliers are reducing the credit period available to you then you will need to try to do the same with your customers.

• *Kerry Poole and Marie Therese, are solicitors in the corporate and commercial department at Thomson Snell & Passmore which has offices in Tunbridge Wells and Greenhithe.*

To see this clip, search 'driving habits'

@ yourkenttv.co.uk



Julie Maddocks looks at how changing your driving habits could have a big effect on your pocket at the petrol pump

Essential guide to where you can save

■ H&H Flooring in Deal is offering an extra 10 per cent off all carpets

■ Avalone Flooring Ltd in Strood is offering 10 per cent off decorative flooring

■ Avinco Limited aerial and satellite store in Ramsgate is offering 15 per cent off aerial installation

■ GC Stevens & Son, garden machinery and woodstoves store in Sittingbourne is offering £10 off Honda mower servicing and £20 off Honda and Husqvana ride-on mower servicing

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Julie Maddocks discovers how charity shops let you make a fashion statement and save cash

Julie Maddocks discovers how charity shops let you make a fashion statement and save cash

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Living Out log cabin store in Chestfield, Maidstone is offering 15 per cent off plus free delivery on all DIY log cabins

■ County Garage Motors in Herne Bay is offering free protection pack worth up to £400. Free full tank of fuel, free Gard X Paint and interior protection, free front and rear mats, on all new or used vehicles

■ Wells Clinic in Ashford is offering £50 off skin lifting and tightening lines and wrinkle treatments. Wrinkle reduction (b/tox)

■ Baileys Nissan in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all servicing

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Drivers weigh poor savings returns against cutting bills

BY STEVE LOADER

WITH savings accounts currently delivering such poor interest, many people see trading in a 'gas guzzler' for a cheaper and more economical model as a better return on their investment.

And there is also some 'green'

kudos to be had. The Government is using escalating road tax or VED (vehicle excise duty) to drive people into smaller and cleaner cars too.

A new scale of zero to £405/year came into force on April 1 (see later story) and is set to become tougher. By 2010, gas guzzling limos or 4x4s may face £950 road tax in the first year, although anyone spending £50-100,000 on a car is unlikely to be put off by such a paltry sum.

As a result, some manufacturers have produced models that are actually exempt from VED by

sneaking below the 100g/km CO2 emissions mark and into band-A.

Most manufacturers also now have an 'Eco' sub-branding for their lowest emission models - Vauxhall uses the ecoFLEX sub-branding.

Brilliant as they are, 'eco' models often cost more since they have diesel engines and special 'green' features that do not yet deliver the economy of scale savings available to makers across the whole model range.

What is more, saving road tax is not such a great incentive when many conventional superminis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year anyway; over three years with an eco model, saving £105 is irrelevant if you spend far more on buying that car in the first place and are then putting expensive diesel in the tank.

So, check out conventional equivalents of eco models and don't dismiss petrol power; that fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users, while emission and consumption levels are closing the gap on diesel equivalents.

Diesel engines also tend to be heavier, so you could find yourself going through tyres more quickly.

Don't ignore alternative power options either, such as liquid petroleum gas (LPG) or hybrids.

Finally, just look again at what you have to part-exchange; you might have lost a packet in depreciation on that big 4x4, but work out what it will cost you to run it for the next three years - it might be a lot less than the cost of chopping it for a new car.



TREND: Government road tax as well as fuel costs is powering the downsizing trend favouring small cars like the lighter and greener Mazda2 supermini

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BY **STEVE LOADER**

SAVE money by downsizing and running a cheaper car and then gain even more by smarter driving and journey planning.

For a start, you can save pounds and wear and tear on the car by avoiding short journeys and perhaps get fitter too by walking or cycling; a cold engine can produce 60 per cent more pollution than a warm one and a car used for many short journeys needs extra servicing and wears its engine out faster.

More fuel is wasted and higher emissions are also generated from a cold start – traffic on UK roads contributes 26 per cent of the nation's total carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂).

However, if your car journey is a must then follow these tips from the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) and RAC Foundation motoring watchdogs:

- Plan your route – forethought can save wear and tear on car and driver. Try to take the most direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. If you have to commute, think about car sharing, 'Park and Ride' bus schemes or other public transport.

- Have your vehicle serviced regularly to maintain efficiency and economy. Under-serviced engines reduce fuel economy by ten per cent or more. Catalytic converters are environmentally friendly, but only when properly maintained.

- Check tyres – under-inflated tyres need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Anybody who has cycled on 'flabby' tyres knows what extra effort is involved, so check pressures weekly.

- Obey speed limits to save money and stay legal. Try to 'feather' the throttle as you reach cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style will save fuel, but never coast in neutral or with clutch pedal depressed to save fuel – vehicle control must not be compromised.



TOP TIPS: Adopt our driving advice to save money and also think about downsizing to city cars like the Chevrolet Matiz (above) or the forthcoming Nissan Pixo (right)

Clever driving is key to cheaper motoring



to brake suddenly.

- Accelerate briskly without racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gearchanges at modest engine speeds can cut fuel consumption by up to 15 per cent.

- Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use. Driving with windows open also mars aerodynamics and lowers fuel economy. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and avoid heavy accessories and wide tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning lowers fuel economy so use the fan and vents unassisted as much as possible.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Seek out low sulphur diesel (City diesel) or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics) supplies locally. Consider a conversion to LPG (liquid petroleum gas), which is half the price of petrol, generates almost as much power and emits much less CO₂.

- Use 'accelerator sense'. Do you go straight from accelerator to the brake? You save fuel if you plan ahead and, rather than have to brake as you hit traffic, gently let the speed of the vehicle bring you to a halt as you join a queue. There is no point in rushing and then having

to park. When you start off again, the engine is cold and inefficient. If you can drive away smoothly without having to reverse, you save fuel and have better visibility.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and carry more weight than is necessary?

- If you are stuck in a jam then you are doing zero mpg – turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at:
<http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community>.

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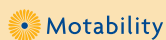
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Is diesel demand peaking?

By **STEVE LOADER**

DIESEL has become the fuel of choice recently as UK buyers seek to cut costs, but do the sums still add up?

Its original appeal was the cheapness of the fuel, greater mpg and the better low down pulling power of the engines and their ability to meet tighter emissions legislation.

However, diesel now commands an increasing premium against petrol and there are doubts whether the engines can continue to meet ever tougher emission laws.

Meanwhile, petrol power has hit back with smaller, lighter and cleaner engines with turbocharging for extra flexibility, while there are other options emerging to save money and the planet:

• **HYBRID**

These partner conventional engines with electric units, but two powerplants and power supplies – fuel tank plus batteries – mean extra weight, while production complexity raises prices so buyers must cover many miles to balance this. Motorway mpg is also hardly better than a standard car.

• **LPG**

Liquid petroleum gas (LPG) seems an excellent alternative fuel due to lower duty and emissions and cheaper car tax.

However, the calorific value and consequent mpg is slightly lower than petrol and it will cost at least £1,500 to convert an existing vehicle via an approved LPG Association operator.

There are many more LPG filling points

across the country than before though – Kent has some 40 LPG sites – and LPG costs about half that of petrol and diesel at the pump, emits about 20 per cent less CO2 than petrol and slightly less than diesel and with fewer NOx and particulates.

• **ELECTRIC**

These should be cheap to run, but battery technology cannot yet guarantee ranges to

satisfy many would-be owners. There is the worry too that the car's emissions are simply transferred from an exhaust pipe to the chimney of a fossil fuel-burning power station.

• **BIOFUELS**

Fuel derived partly from vegetable matter

appeals since plants absorb CO2 during growth and simply release it again when burned – a virtuous circle. Most road fuels sold in the UK will contain at least five per cent biofuel by next year anyway, but there is concern that using arable land or forest to grow 'biofuel' plants will strain global food supplies.



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A smoking exhaust can really damage your motoring wealth

By **STEVE LOADER**

GOVERNMENT efforts to use road tax to beat drivers into giving up so-called gas guzzlers have met with mixed success.

There can be no doubt that escalating tax or vehicle excise duty (VED) over the past couple of years has helped fuel downsizing, but there was outcry after the March 2008 Budget at 'draconian' rates to be applied to larger cars, especially with the recession looming.

Consequently, Chancellor Alistair Darling

backtracked last November and proposed amended charges from April 1, 2009 to soften the blow at the top end of the market, though the Government says VED will continue to be amended in future to maintain downward force in vehicle sizes and emissions.

They will also continue to be based on CO2 emissions rather than fuel consumption and apply only to cars registered after March 1, 2001; inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year if the engine is 1,549cc or less and then £185 if it is above – something of a bargain for the owners of large older 'gas guzzlers' if they are content to bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas)

conversion or cover relatively few miles.

The new rates are weighted even more in favour of the latest, cleanest and most miserly small cars.

Models emitting 100g/km of CO2 or less like the new Ford Fiesta ECONetic, for instance, continue to qualify for Band A or zero rating.

The payable steps are:

Bands B and C (101-120g/km) – £35
Bands D and E (121-140g/km) – £120
Band F (141-150g/km) – £125
Band G (151-160g/km) – £150
Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175
Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215
Band L (226-255g/km) – £405
Band M (255g/km plus) – £405



GREENER IS CHEAPER: All Hyundai i10 city cars (above left) qualify for the lowest road tax band (£35) and also come with a five-year warranty; and the low emissions of Skoda Fabia Greenline (above right) also attract only £35-a-year in road tax bills

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Julie Maddocks discovers how recycling can be not only good for the environment – but save you money

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS



Tap into a way your firm could be saving money

By **TONY PATEY**

CASH-strapped businesses could be literally pouring money down the drain – by not taking simple steps to turn off the tap of water waste.

Sustainable business expert Envirowise is calling on businesses in the South East to take on board low-cost initiatives to reduce water consumption which it says could help save thousands of pounds every year.

With reports predicting water is set to become an increasingly scarce and expensive resource, and that UK businesses are using enough of it every year to fill 2.6 million Olympic-sized swimming pools, it says local businesses could be pouring money down the drain.

To make it easy for businesses to introduce water-saving measures, Envirowise has launched a new step-by-step online tool that helps companies identify where and how water is used and treated, the costs involved, and practical ways to reduce and re-use it.

The tool also helps organisations keep control of costs and future proof against rate rises and supply shortages.

Last year Envirowise ran Rippleeffect, a free initiative designed to help businesses tackle water use.

Around 500 businesses signed up for the scheme and it is hoped many more will benefit from water savings by using the new tool.

Holly Firmin, South East regional manager,

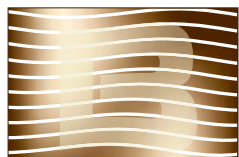
said: "While many of us consider water to be a cheap and endless resource, the reality is that we are using and wasting far too much, and this is placing extra pressure on existing supplies as well as impacting on the bottom line."

"It is crucial that people are aware of the serious and complex issues around water supply and use and we hope our new tool will help businesses address these challenges in the most effective way."

For details about the scheme visit www.envirowise.gov.uk/water.

Envirowise is a government-funded programme which aims to put sustainable use of resources at the top of the UK business agenda.

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By JEREMY GATES

THERE are probably two reasons why the annual pension of around £700,000 awarded to Sir Fred Goodwin, as he sidesteps the wreckage of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), is arousing such fury.

The first is that much of his cash could come from taxpayers, possibly for decades, because RBS pension schemes worldwide already face a near £2 billion deficit. RBS non-contributory pensions are fully guaranteed by the firm.

The second, is that while Goodwin hits the jackpot, some seven million workers in money purchase defined contribution (DC) pensions are seeing their retirement income slashed by the credit crunch, despite years of saving.

Private

Financial advisor Hargreaves Lansdown thinks the average employee saving £150 per month would take 209 years, allowing for investment growth and inflation, to match Sir Fred's pension pot, which RBS accrued for him since 1998. Meanwhile, those in DC schemes have seen their likely pension income slashed 20-25 per cent in the past 18 months.

Over-55s, in particular, feel powerless as markets slide because a full recovery before they retire is unlikely. How long will it take to recoup £50bn worth of share values in London one day this week?

To have any hope of a decent payout, workers must stick with pension saving through thick and thin. The eventual payout might be healthier than they fear – or expect.

Even Sir Fred needed a bit of luck at the end: if RBS had gone bust, he would have got a maximum pension of £27,000 a year. Those who make no private pension arrangements miss out particularly badly, if their employer is willing to pay into a pension on their behalf. Besides the boss's contribution, pensions are helped to grow over the years by tax relief.

Protecting your pension through the tough times

The dwindling number still in the private sector final salary pensions, mostly assume they don't have a problem. In fact, their fund may face a rising deficit, so it might be prudent for them to save more through an AVC (Additional Voluntary Contribution) scheme to boost their eventual pension income.

For others outside final salary schemes, an obvious vehicle for extra saving is a SIPP (Self-Invested Personal Pension), a concept devised in the early 90s. Many self-employed workers use a SIPP as their main pension plan.

Laith Khalaf, pension analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown (HL) says a "Bed and SIPP" enables savers to switch unwanted shares into a SIPP, with generous tax relief on top.

"HL figures suggest there are as many as 10 million private shareholders, many with shares from demutualisations," Khalaf says.

Basic rate payers putting £1,000 worth of shares into the SIPP get an additional £250 in tax relief, while higher rate taxpayers get up to another £250 back from the taxman.

"Markets and asset values move in a cyclical direction and every 10-15 years, something bad happens. In good times, people happily put money away, and in bad times, they don't."

"We should invest on a counter-cyclical basis. The fact is that Government – regardless of party – will soon raise taxes, particularly income tax and National Insurance, to handle vast debts building up, so it is vital to use the tax shelter which pensions provide."

"At the very least, put spare money into a

pension pot, to hold it there as cash until you find an attractive investment. In pensions invested in managed funds, you might step up contributions to buy in at the lower price," Khalaf says.

Malcolm Cuthbert at financial advisor Killik & Co says some savers fatten up SIPPs either by putting in ISA money currently earning a low interest rate, or a lump sum generated by cashing in a poorly performing endowment.

He cites the example of a higher rate taxpayer at 50 moving £8,000 from an ISA into a SIPP who receives £2,000 tax relief immediately, and can claim back £2,000 through his tax return, so a net £6,000 outlay produces an extra £10,000 in the pension.

The average sum held in SIPPs is around £50,000, but Cuthbert says it is important to check each investment inside it to ensure good performance. Switching to a better performing fund might involve no charges.

State

Next, we come to the State pension: those with a full NI contribution record can count on £90.70 per week, and in many cases will collect more. From 2010, the minimum number of years' work required to qualify for a full basic State Pension falls to 30.

For a prediction on your state pension, check with the Department of Work and Pensions at 0845 300 0168 and at www.thepension-service.gov.uk. Khalaf says people may be tempted to lessen the impact of this downturn

by delaying their pension by two or three years, and living on savings or part-time work in between.

When retirement actually arrives, savers in DC pensions should use the open market option (OMO) to find the most generous annuity, instead of merely accepting the quotation from their pension provider.

Steve Hunt, at Rockingham Retirement, reckons pensioners lose £1.4bn a year by failing to do this. Figures from the Association of British Insurers (ABI) indicate that 169,000 retirees turned down an annuity offered by their pension provider in 2008 and presumably found something better elsewhere, just over a third of the total annuity market.

"Research shows that those approaching retirement can increase their income by more than 20 per cent by shopping around, compared to the default option," Hunt says.

Finally, it is worth remembering that the bleaker prospects might appear in the pension sector, the more likely it is that new products will enter the field.

Next week, Prudential launches its New Income Choice Annuity, available for clients with pension pots of at least £10,000 after tax-free cash has been taken. It will enable savers to select a starting income which can be varied over time.

If Prudential's new product catches on, rivals will respond. As the older population grows, pensioners have a bit more bargaining clout than they realise.

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54 Rapido 984F 2.8 JTD Awning, Ladder, Bike Rack, Garage, Air Con (Cab), Fixed Bed, Fridge/Freezer, Large Kitchen, 1 Owner, 29124 Miles.....	£1,500	£37,495
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

For poorer and poorer

BY MELANIE DEN BRINKER

THERE have been a spate of recent headlines about highly paid people trying to renegotiate so-called 'big money' divorce settlements they can no longer afford as the bonus culture declines.

So it's not surprising divorce lawyers are seeing a marked increase in the number of previously high-earning men seeking to reduce maintenance payments to their ex-wives.

They believe that, having shared in the good times, their ex-spouses should now share in the bad.

Although orders for the payment of ongoing maintenance are variable, orders dividing capital assets have historically not, save in rare and unforeseen circumstances, been variable, even where there is a change in financial circumstances.

Where does this leave previously wealthy divorced couples whose capital assets were valued and subsequently divided shortly before the credit crunch hit, and who may now be looking at a reduction in the value of some of their assets by as much as 90 per cent?

In many cases this ill fortune will be shared between the parties.

However, often the wife will have received the bulk of the 'copper-bottomed' assets, including the former matrimonial home, while the husband retains a larger percentage of the risk-laden assets such as shares, options or even possible future bonuses.

In such cases, while the wife may be facing a fall in the value of her assets, it may be as nothing to that faced by the ex-husband.

How the recession could see divorce settlements head back to the court room



The result may be that he ends up with significantly less capital than the ex-wife.

For such ex-couples, the outcome of an application made to the Court of Appeal by Bryan Myerson, a city fund manager may have huge implications.

He has asked the Court of Appeal for leave to apply to reopen a divorce settlement finalised in March last year, whereby he was ordered to pay 43 per cent of a total £25.8 million assets to his wife.

She received £9.5m cash, while he retained most of his shares. Since the settlement, the value of his shares has plummeted by 90 per cent.

The result is Mrs Myerson will hold 105 per cent of the couple's assets, while Mr Myerson, who would have to borrow to pay the £2.5m that he still owes, will be half-a-million

pounds out of pocket rather than retaining £14.6m, as had been anticipated at the time of the settlement.

She opposes the application, with her lawyer predicting that, if allowed, it will open the floodgates to applications by many other men in a similar position.

Indeed, Jim Moore, the so called 'buy-to-let king' has already announced he will represent himself in an attempt to reopen his divorce settlement on the grounds the fall in property values has made it unaffordable.

Whether or not they are successful remains to be seen, but what is clear is that in these difficult times, divorce will increasingly be seen to be for poorer as well as for richer.

• *Melanie den Brinker is a solicitor at leading Kent solicitors Buss Murton, with offices in Tunbridge Wells, Cranbrook and Dartford.*

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Don't let the financial climate be a taxing time for your relationship

CREDIT-crunched couples can cut down their tax burden and ease the stress caused to relationships by the economic slump.

The charity Relate has highlighted financial pressures as causing potential relationship problems – but tax should not be an extra issue.

In fact, couples who work together in planning their tax affairs can save tax and so keep much-needed cash available.

These savings mainly apply to married couples and civil partnerships, to whom special rules apply, but some can also apply to unmarried couples.

The tax savings available depend on making the best use of both partners':

- annual tax allowances;
- lower and basic rate tax bands;
- exemptions on transfers of assets between them, so enabling the best use of tax losses.

Mostly the savings will reduce current liabilities, but there will be cases where refunds of tax from previous years may be claimed.

Make full use of income tax allowances. Interest returns are low at present but if only one spouse is in paid work, putting savings in the name of the other makes use of their personal allowance.

BY PAUL HODGE

This tip will remain worthwhile even when interest rates recover if the account-holder does not resume employment.

Where one spouse is the main earner, forming a company or partnership can enable the profits to be shared between both.

Again, this makes use of both personal allowances and, if the main earner expects to have assessable income of more than £43,875 in the year 2009-10, he or she will pay higher rate tax unless some of that can be transferred to the other spouse.

This can be done by:

- employing the spouse and paying him/her a reasonable wage for the work done;
- giving the spouse shares in the company and paying dividends;
- making the spouse a partner in the business.

'Bed and breakfasting', commonly by one spouse selling and the other buying shares whose value has risen, is usually done to reduce future capital gains tax by using annual exemptions.

But not all shares will be standing at a loss and many people who have sold shares before they fell to below their original cost will have made taxable gains on those shares.

If their gains are more than the annual exemption, but they have other shares that are showing a loss, bed and breakfasting the loss-making shares

can create a loss that will reduce or eliminate the CGT on gains already realised.

If one spouse is about to sell an asset and the other has already made capital losses, the asset can be transferred to the spouse with the losses before selling, so that those losses reduce the taxable capital gain.

A similar arrangement can work if a higher rate taxpayer

is about to cash in an insurance policy.

Chargeable event gains are liable to higher rates but if the policy is first transferred to a spouse who does not pay higher rate tax, the tax bill can be reduced.

• Paul Hodge is a partner at accountants and business advisors Baker Tilly, which has offices in Bromley and Tunbridge Wells.



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Put yourself ahead of the game when searching for a new job

GETTING a new job these days is tough in the extreme – recent reports say anything up to 60 people are going for jobs which wouldn't even make a tiny blip on the radar in normal economic times.

So when it comes to looking for new jobs it's essential you know a little about the companies you apply to.

That would put you in pole position, at least when it comes to interviews.

By understanding a company you will be able to know more about the kind of work they do, if it suits you, whether you're the right person for the job, what qualities they're looking for in job applicants – and crucially also how you should position yourself in your CV and cover letters.

Using relevant information during the application process will show potential employers you have researched their company, understand them and are keen to work for them specifically.

Susan Yallop, a director at recruitment firm Adecco, has set out some tips on how to find background information on potential employers, helping to make the job-seeking process a lot more targeted and potentially successful.

Company websites

Company websites are a great place for you to start your research – nearly every company now has a web page, which will include information about the organisation, what they offer as a business and its aims and ethos.

BY TONY PATEY

This is the best place to start when building up your knowledge as it gives you an overall flavour of the company. Downloading company reports can offer a good insight into the direction the business is moving in; this will offer you strong background knowledge should you be offered an interview.

Get online

The internet is a great place for finding information on a company and its recent news and announcements.

While the company website may offer some information on the company, looking for its presence online with relevant newswires and national and trade publications will give you a more comprehensive impression of what it has done in the past 12 months, the direction the company appears to be moving in and how it is competing in its market.

Social networking

This is not just a way of sharing photos and chatting with friends. A number of companies use social networking for business purposes.

While some use the sites for a communal place for employees to chat and share information, there are a number of companies who have started to use these sites for recruitment purposes.

Sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter might be just the thing to help you to find information on companies and job openings while staying up to date with specific industries.

From the horse's mouth

While external sources are all useful they don't offer an inside perspective, only news that a company has released or been involved in.

If you have a friend or an acquaintance who has either worked for or in some way been involved with a company, they can be extremely valuable.

While this information source isn't essential, personal recommendations and incite offer a huge bonus as you can learn about working culture and everyday goings on at any companies that might be of interest.

If you don't ask you don't get

If you are struggling to find out about the company don't be afraid to call the main help desk and ask for company brochures or advice as to where you can find out more.

HR may even be able to supply you with a more detailed job description.

Competitors

It can be worthwhile researching the companies that compete in the same space as the organisation you are looking to work for.

It will impress the employer if you can demonstrate knowledge of the key players and offer an opinion on the industry as a whole.

Ms Yallop said: "Obviously, companies always try to give the best impression of themselves through various formats but by investigating a number of avenues you will be able to get a much clearer and rounded impression of the image and culture that each company is trying to promote and aspire to."

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Blakes Hair & Beauty in Canterbury is offering 30 per cent off all colours with full price cut and blow dry

■ Maidstone Kia in Maidstone is offering a free set of mats with any new car purchased before May 31

■ KOS is offering all seasons duck duvet, two duvets that button together from only £39.99. Save more than 50 per cent

■ Wildlife Heritage Foundation Animal Park in Ashford is offering an amazing day being close to big cats. All day dedicated guide with buffet lunch, tea/coffee for only £99

■ Pomphreys Motors in Bapchild, Sittingbourne is offering a car rental deal when you book one day you get the second free

■ Robins and Day Motors in Maidstone, Canterbury and Rochester are offering MOTs from £39.99. Service and MOT from £129.99 and seasonal checks from £19.99

■ H&H Flooring in Deal is offering free underlay upgrade on all carpets

■ KOS is offering big button digital cordless phones just £24.99 save £20

■ Canterbury Hyundai in Canterbury is offering £29.95 MOTs while you wait

■ Brownhills Motor Homes in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off all servicing

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BY JEREMY GATES

IF NEW figures detailing our personal borrowings are even vaguely accurate, Gordon Brown isn't alone in convincing himself the best way out of any financial squeeze is to step up the spending.

Professional advice website Unbiased.co.uk says personal loan debt rose by over £1.6 billion to £11.4bn during 2008.

The website nominated March 25 as Debt Freedom Day – and reckons we worked for the first 83 days of the year to earn the money to service interest charges on our debts, despite the fact that credit card debt actually fell by just over £4.9bn during 2008.

"Perhaps it takes an occasion like Debt Freedom Day to illustrate just how deeply in debt we are, and it will hopefully spur people into action to tackle debts," says spokesman David Elms.

"It's a daunting task, but with interest rates at a record low, this is the time to make money work hard to ensure any debt is repaid as quickly as possible."

Many will not escape current financial difficulties: accountants KPMG predict more than 150,000 people are likely to enter into an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA), be declared bankrupt or enter into a Debt Relief Order (a new option for people with little hope of repaying debts) to be introduced on April 6, 2009.

"Falling house prices, the general downturn and increases in unemployment are starting to have an impact," says Mark Sands, KPMG's director of personal insolvency.

Our personal debt is out of control

"Whilst consumers fight to keep their jobs and homes, for those that lose both there is often little reason for someone with debts and assets not to declare themselves bankrupt."

John Fairhurst at Payplan, a free debt advice and solutions service started in the early 1990s to offer insolvency solutions to public sector workers, says in many cases people fail to realise they are in trouble until it is too late. "They often go to the wrong place for help," he says. "Typically they fix another loan to consolidate debts, and find themselves in even deeper difficulties before long."

The average Payplan client has net household income of £1,700 per month, including benefits. They are sitting on £30,000 worth of unsecured debts and after meeting all commitments, face a shortfall of about £650 per month. Around half of Payplan clients who are homeowners have paid the mortgage at some stage by credit card, and they don't tell creditors of their problems for fear of losing their credit card.

Since August, 2008, the 600-strong Payplan team in Grantham, Lincolnshire, has seen a sharp rise of owner/occupiers in trouble. Unemployment and redundancy have not yet figured largely in the cases it is handling.

DON'T RUN AWAY: Tackle debts, and now is a good time with current interest rates low

Although the group with the most problems is aged 35-45, the sector seeing the fastest rise in problems is older – in the 50-60 bracket.

The average owner-occupier in trouble has a net monthly income of £2,100 and unsecured debts of £41,000, including credit cards, personal loans, and car loans, creating a monthly deficit of about £950.

Fairhurst says they have been hit particularly hard by the clampdown on credit in 2008, and the end of easy remortgaging caused by the plunge in house prices. For many, the escape routes are cut off.

Payplan's initial strategy is to bring the household budget back into balance: creditors are requested to stop adding interest and other charges, if clients agree to pay an affordable monthly sum to each creditor.

About a third of Payplan clients agree to a repayment arrangement, with six out of seven choosing Debt Management Plans (DMPs) and the remainder opting for Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs).

Debt Relief Orders is a third, simpler option to reduce the administrative work triggered by the great debt mountain. Fairhurst believes they will be offered to people with debts below £15,000, no assets and minimal income, and little hope of paying anything off.

On payment of a £90 fee, debtors will have debts written off, and will find it extremely difficult to get credit in the future.

Some debt problems are solved informally, without using any of these vehicles. Around five to six per cent of Payplan customers take advice on making contractual repayments and handle their own financial arrangements thereafter.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Lexterten furniture store in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £100 off Elevating TV cabinets

■ Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items

■ Oliver Carpets in Ramsgate and Herne Bay is offering 10 per cent off when you spend more than £250

■ Pomphreys Motors in Bapchild, Sittingbourne, is offering a half-price MOT with every service

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering £5 off the carvery lunch on any Bank Holiday Monday

■ Living Out log cabin store in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering free installation on all standard range of cabins

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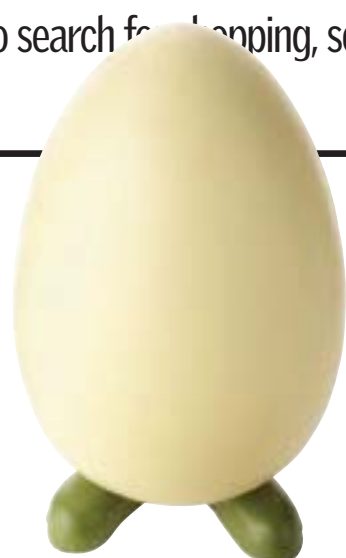
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Men can look cool this summer with Burton

MEN'S top ten key items for a summer wardrobe are now available at Burton.

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See www.burton.co.uk for details.

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See www.newlook.co.uk or go to the store in Biggin Street, Dover, or High Street, Deal.

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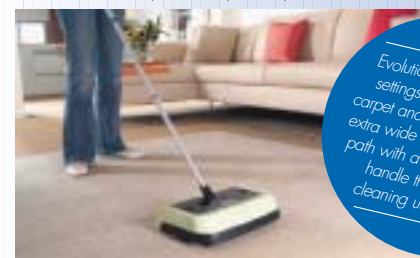
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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

PRIMEVAL
ITV1, 6.15pm, Saturday
ROBIN HOOD
BBC One, 7.45pm, Saturday

IT'S very difficult to know what ITV is up to with Primeval, other than copy Doctor Who as much as it possibly can, of course.

Each time I've tuned into this programme over the course of the past few series the plot has been almost the same as the last time.

The basic scenario revolves around these basics: lots of running around, time portal or wormhole opens up, big beast of some kind smashes stuff up, more running around, thing is killed or disappears back through portal, everyone breathes a big sigh of relief and has a nice sit down.

Intersperse that with Hannah Spearritt, the girl who used to be in S Club 7 – you know, the really boyish-looking one – appearing as confused as the viewers while spending a lot of time in sports leisurewear.

This doesn't add up to a masterpiece.

OK, so it may not try to be anything other than throwaway TV, but sometimes you feel like the writers of this have just given up and opted for the same story each and every week.

While Doctor Who episodes can vary wildly in quality (largely depending on who's penned it), this never rises above banged-together-by-a-bunch-of-sixth-formers level.

The special effects are hardly Jurassic Park, either.

I'm afraid to say the makers of this one have got dinosaur pie all over their faces.

Over on BBC One, meanwhile, Robin Hood has returned to our Saturday nights to rob from the rich to give to the poor once again.



WOOD YOU BELIEVE IT? Jonas Armstrong plays the lead role in BBC drama Robin Hood

Mind you, this is another half-hearted effort that has never really taken off and looks like it will crash off our screens next year.

There's something about the lead, Jonas Armstrong, that doesn't really gel. He seems far too young and neither cuts a dash nor could bowl a maiden over.

Looking more like the lost Gallagher brother than a hero of folklore who could lead Sherwood Forest's finest into battle, it shows that if your main man is flawed then it's tough getting the rest to work.

I know that personal hygiene may not have been as high on the agenda as it is now, but a shave and haircut wouldn't go amiss, Robin.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
RESIST the urge to go on a spending spree. You need to hang on to your cash now. There will be plenty of time to buy what you want soon. If you're having a hard time making ends meet, this would be a good time to return to school. Don't underestimate the importance of diplomacy.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
DON'T let friends push you into a decision you'll later regret. You're the type who likes to think things through so rushing into a situation will only create more stress. It's especially important to take your time with a new romance. You could finally get word about a new job.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
TENSIONS are mounting between you and a prospective partner. In many ways this seems like the worst time to launch an affair. You have so many financial and work responsibilities. What you fail to realise is that you need to balance work with play.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
ALL is not fair in love and war. Beware of engaging in underhanded behaviour, or it will come back to haunt you. If you're in love with someone who is obsessed with somebody else, stay calm. The tide will turn in your favour; provided you refrain from jealous displays.
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PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
AN angry outburst could drive a romantic partner from your door. You need to learn how to express your frustrations in a healthier way. Right now you tend to bury your feelings until they fester and explode. This wreaks havoc on all of your relationships.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
AN overbearing boss is making life tough. It gets you down you that you can't get up and leave this restrictive situation. Remember you have other responsibilities. By staying put, you'll be doing the wisest thing. The good news is that your love life is getting better.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
A BUSINESS or romantic contact is tired of you dragging your feet. Unfortunately, you are just not ready to make a serious commitment. It's better to break things off now, before either one of you becomes too fully invested in this relationship. A financial matter is music to your ears.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
HIDDEN resentments are coming to the surface. You're tired of obeying a stuffy person's orders. Quitting a dead-end job may be the best course of action. If you're looking for a better opportunity, spread the word among friends. Who you know is more important than what you know.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
Don't push your luck at work. Although a colleagues methodical approach annoys you, it's essential the two of you get along. Putting them under pressure will backfire. Actually, you could benefit by adopting some of their vigilance. A relationship is coming to fruition.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
YOU have to be very careful when dealing with legal and financial paperwork. Answer every question. If you don't know how an entry should be phrased, check with the authorities. A domestic problem could finally be resolved. The result helps you to make a lifestyle change.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
YOU'RE being pressured to churn out work at twice the normal rate. Let people know that their demands are unreasonable. If they threaten you with dismissal, don't worry. A personal project is coming to fruition. Getting paid to do what you love is a real possibility.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
ANGRY words could fly thick and fast between you and a conservative authority figure. You're tired of being treated like an ignoramus. By standing your ground they'll grow to respect you. You may not have a lot of experience, but you are a hard worker.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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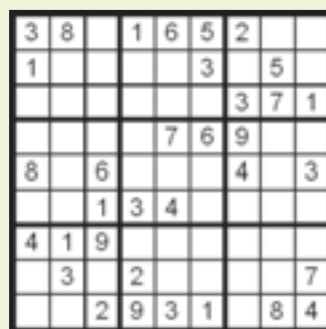
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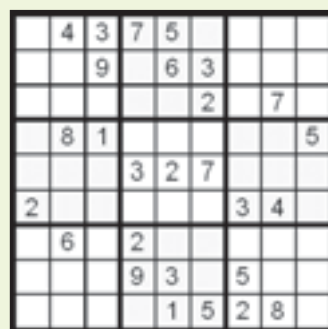
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HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Angela met hysteria about purple gem (8)
 6 Springy? (6)
 9 It is light yellow and soft in marshy ground (6)
 10 Many a caper by the Parisian in song (8)
 11 Ought enemies be removed from place for public worship? (7-5)
 13 Shoot, say, the rapid (5)
 14 Engagement involved both later (9)
 17 Would it foil attempts to catch it? (9)
 19 Hebridean island with no priest? (5)
 21 Post for 25% of the employees (12)
 24 Very modern step wise man concealed (5-3)
 25 Royal colour (6)
 26 Team from Plymouth, we hear, or Lochgilphead area (6)
 27 Risked including Kenneth when it became more gloomy (8)

DOWN

- 2 Thousand unwell at the plant (4)
 3 It displays the bill of fare (9)
 4 Rodney floundered in the distance (6)
 5 A lightweight slab of clay outside that can be perceived by touch (7)
 6 Sour-tasting wine from France eg Ray rejected (8)
 7 Greek character included fashionable beast! (5)
 8 Sailor who is fit? (4,6)
 12 Rider to display item of clothing (10)
 15 Military unit's job supporting church (4-5)
 16 Nevertheless seeking a monopoly (5,3)
 18 Stop payment - we object during pay out (7)
 20 Pre-arranged strike first using electronic device (6)
 22 In a trick you caught little Richard (5)
 23 Sad sportsman (4)

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QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Persuasive (8)
 6 Develop (6)
 9 Spray liquid (6)
 10 Dirtiest (8)
 11 Monitor lizard (6,6)
 13 Brown pigment (5)
 14 Pretender (9)
 17 Teaching area (9)
 19 Backbone (5)
 21 Sweet coloured nut (6,6)
 24 Kerosene (8)
 25 Hate (6)
 26 Zenith (6)
 27 In transit (2,3,3)

DOWN

- 2 Northern Scandinavian (4)
 3 Speed (9)
 4 Skin disease (6)
 5 Faint-heartedly (7)
 6 Scenery (8)
 7 Porcelain (5)
 8 Bad luck (10)
 12 Improve (10)
 15 Disown (9)
 16 Pierce through (8)
 18 Resort in Florida (7)
 20 Drinking-cup (6)
 22 Delta (anag. 5)
 23 Order to stop (4)

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SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No81

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MEDIUM



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CRYPTIC SOLUTION No81

ACROSS: 1 Sky-sign 5 Tell off 9 Baku
 10 Suspension 12 Low-level 13 Thief
 14 Hundred Years 17 Aladdin's lamp 21
 Idiocy 23 Embossed 24 Ventilator 25 Tizz
 26 In place 27 Hayride. DOWN: 2 Klaxon
 3 Squelched 4 Gas oven 6 Ejected 7 Lisle
 8 Footsore 11 Self-respect 15 Expositor 16
 Bludgeon 18 Idyllic 19 Alberta 20 Seized
 22 Octal.

QUICK SOLUTION No82

ACROSS: 1 Eloquent 6 Become 9 Spritz
 10 Muckiest 11 Komodo dragon 13 Umber
 14 Hypocrite 17 Classroom 19 Spine 21
 Jordan almost 24 Paraffin 25 Latte 26
 Quickness 4 Eczena 5 Timidly 6 Backdrop
 7 China 8 Mistrust 12 Ameliorate 15
 Repudiate 16 Transfix 18 Orlando 20
 Goblet 22 Deal 23 Whoa.

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Comedy from Richard Curtis about a misfit group of 1960s pirate radio DJs playing pop music to the UK's youth from a boat in the North Sea. Meanwhile, a government official wants to throw them off the air.

DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION (PG)



Live action version of the manga series, Dragonball Evolution tells the story of Goku who sets out to find Master Roshi and gather the Dragon Balls before they fall into the hands of evil Lord Piccolo.

FAST AND FURIOUS (TBC)



Vin Diesel and Paul Walker return with the latest Fast and Furious thriller: Fugitive ex-con Dom Toretto (Diesel) is forced to hook up with his old adversary, agent Brian O'Conner, to confront a shared enemy.

How petite Reese rose to meet a monster challenge

BY LAURA HARDING

IT would be too easy to dismiss Reese Witherspoon as another Hollywood blonde. While the Southern belle's impish looks could have guaranteed her a success in romantic comedies, Reese has chosen a more unconventional path.

From Pleasantville, about a pair of 1990s teenage siblings who are magically transported into 1950s, to her performance as June Carter Cash in the critically acclaimed Walk The Line, Reese has been drawn to unconventional roles.

Her latest challenge, voicing the part of Susan/Ginormica, a girl-turned-monster in new 3D animation Monsters vs Aliens, reflects her tendency not to fit in.

Susan is an ordinary girl planning her wedding when she is hit by a meteorite and turned into a giant. She is then dragged off to a secret government compound and has to fight evil aliens that are trying to take over the world.

Along the way Susan has to come to terms with who she is and accept and embrace the fact that she is different. As if that wasn't enough, Susan is locked in the compound with other monsters that the government doesn't know what to do with. At first she is repulsed but as the film goes on she learns to love them.

"Through the journey of the film, Susan starts to value and appreciate the monster crew for the support that they give her – the love, the companionship, the understanding that they have of the situation," Reese says.

"She has come to terms with the fact that she can't really go home again in the same way. She'll never be just Susan Murphy from Modesto.



ACTING GIANT: Hollywood's 5ft 11in Reese Witherspoon

"At first that kind of depresses her, but then, through the help of the Monsters, she realises it's a little awesome to be different. They all value each other for their qualities, and they kind of form this offbeat family."

The film's powerful message about being an outsider was partly what drew Reese to the role.

"I think it's great that this movie has a message that no matter how weird you feel you definitely have a place in this world and sometimes that can be your greatest benefit," she says.

However much she loved the script, being a giant superhero was tough for 5ft 11in Reese, who had to channel all her efforts into sounding like she could take on an evil alien.

"They kept on saying, 'Be more like Arnold

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Schwarznegger or Sylvester Stallone, say it in that tagline way – "I am Ginormica!" and I couldn't do it, I sounded like a robot."

Reese also reveals that her two children – Ava, nine, and Deacon, five (both from her marriage to Cruel Intentions co-star Ryan Phillippe, whom she divorced in 2006) – are huge fans of the film and both had insightful interpretations of its deeper meaning.

"I was driving them home from the theatre and I said to my kids, 'So what do you guys think is the message of the movie?' And my daughter very thoughtfully said, 'I think it's a movie about never letting someone underestimate you and always living up to your true potential'. I said 'You're so astute Ava, yes that's exactly what it's about'.

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PROPERTY NEWS

You say high council tax gives poor value

NEARLY 90 per cent of UK residents are unhappy with the services they receive in exchange for council tax, a new survey has revealed.

The poll of 4,800 homeowners and private tenants shows a third of people describing their local council as out of touch.

Eighty-six per cent of people oppose a revaluation of council tax bands.

Only seven per cent of respondents to the survey, by propertyfinder.com, expressed satisfaction with their local council and said they did not mind paying the tax.

"The average council tax has risen 74 per cent over the past ten years, while inflation has risen just under 20 per cent, but for many, services haven't improved," said Charles Wasdell, head of research at propertyfinder.com.

"Despite massive rises in council tax, people overwhelmingly feel they get poorer value for money from local council."

Rental market value is back on the move

THE rental market has begun to show signs of recovery over the past three months, according to the findaproperty rental index.

The research shows the trend of falling asking prices and rising stock has slowed in the last quarter, with rental prices falling just -0.4 per cent in March, the lowest fall for six months.

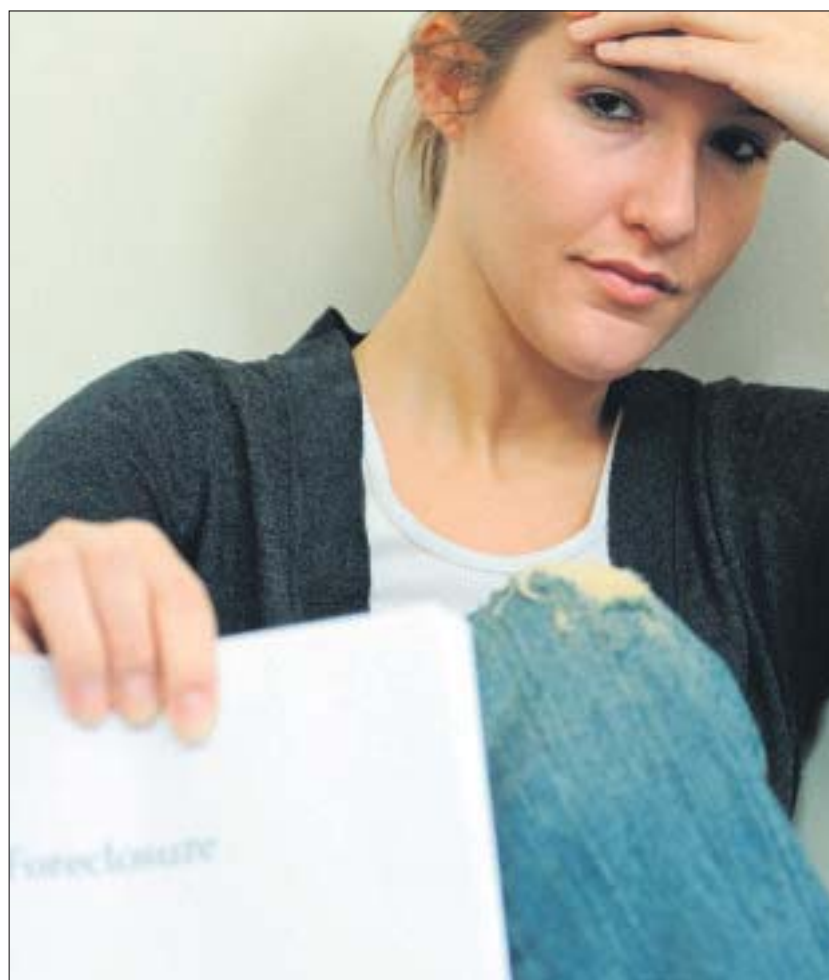
Supply also slowed, with stock rising 1.9 per cent, the lowest monthly increase since September 2008, and well below the 12 per cent high seen in other months.

Average rents for March were £827 pcm, compared with £830 pcm in February, with tenant activity reducing the average time a property is on the market by five days over the month.

Andrew Smith, head of research, said: "The UK rental market over the past year has been a story of rising supply levels outstripping tenant demand, which in turn has led to falling rental asking prices."

How mortgage arrears make tenants homeless

■ BY NICK AMES



INNOCENT: Tenants currently have no rights and are evicted when landlords default on their mortgage payments

FOUR housing charities have launched a campaign to stop tenants being kicked on to the streets because their landlord has defaulted on mortgage payments.

Shelter, Citizens Advice, Crisis and the Chartered Institute of Housing, have teamed up to help the growing number of private tenants facing eviction through no fault of their own.

The organisations are calling for a change in the law to allow courts the power to defer repossessions to allow tenants to find other suitable accommodation.

Currently most private tenants have no legal rights, which means they can lose their home without notice.

The housing charities say they have heard of cases where tenants' belongings have been put out on the street and the locks have been changed.

Shelter chief executive Adam Sampson said: "Shelter has seen a steep rise in the number of tenants who have kept their side of the bargain by paying their rent, but who are being thrown out on to the street because their landlords have defaulted on the mortgage and the house has been repossessed.

"With more and more landlords struggling with mortgage arrears and tenants facing repossession, the Government must allow the courts to defer possession dates so that tenants can find other suitable accommodation."

Members of the joint campaign are calling for the law to be changed to give courts the discretion to take into account the circumstances of sitting tenants where an outright possession order is granted, and defer possession for a limited period of time.

The charities have written to MPs urging them to sign an Early Day Motion, calling for changes to the law.

They estimate thousands of tenants in the private rented sector could be at risk of losing their homes in this way.

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EYTHORNE £270,000

3 storey semi det house. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Bed 4/Study, Bathroom, Storage Area/Utility. The ground floor has 3 further double beds. Garden, garage & driveway, outside WC, c/heating and d/glazing.

Kearsney Office 01304 823714


SHEPHERDSWELL £275,000

NO CHAIN. 3 bed det house. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen and D/stairs Bathroom. Ensuite to Master. Driveway, garage, rear garden, c/heating & d/glazing.

Kearsney Office 01304 823714


RINGWOULD £295,000

NO CHAIN. 4 bed double fronted det house. Lounge/Diner, Kitchen/Breakfast room, Utility & Downstairs WC. The first floor offers 4 beds with shower to Master. Side garden, ORP, c/heating.

Kearsney Office 01304 823714


NEW ROMNEY £154,995 FREEHOLD

Cul de sac position with views across nature reserve. Two bedroom semi-detached chalet style house. Sun lounge to rear. Garage and off road parking.

New Romney 01797 363194


LYDD £149,995 FREEHOLD

Family house offering three bedrooms and lounge / diner overlooking rear garden. Double glazing and gas central heating. No chain.

New Romney 01797 363194


LITTLESTONE £275,000 FREEHOLD

Sought after road in Littlestone. Family house with 4 bedrooms, lounge, dining room, kitchen & utility room, conservatory, downstairs cloakroom, family bathroom, garage.

New Romney 01797 363194


LYDD £149,995 FREEHOLD

Three bedroom Victorian end of terrace house. Two receptions. Loft room. Views across The Rype. No chain.

New Romney 01797 363194


LYDD £159,995 FREEHOLD

3 bed semi-detached family home, lounge/diner, kitchen, 3 bedrooms and shower room. Garage and ORP for several vehicles. Enclosed rear garden measuring 55' in length.

New Romney 01797 363194


NEW ROMNEY £199,995 FREEHOLD

End of terrace family house with 4 bedrooms & upstairs bathroom, lounge / diner, sun lounge and laundry room to the rear, garage and ORP for several vehicles. No chain.

New Romney 01797 363194

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Countrywide

DOVER



OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £50,000

Investment opportunity. One bedroom ground floor flat. No chain.

DEAL



OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £89,995

One bedroom first floor retirement flat with resident House Manager.

AYCLIFFE



£90,000

Three bedroom terrace house with double glazing, gas central heating and garden. No chain.

DOVER



OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £100,000

Two bedroom terrace house with double glazing, gas central heating and rear garden.

DOVER



£112,500

Three bedroom terrace house with double glazing, gas central heating, utility room and garden. No chain.

DOVER



£115,000

A 2 bed semi det house, 2 receptions, double glazing, gas central heating, garden, hard standing. No chain.

DOVER



£120,000

Two bedroom terrace house with double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden.

ST MARGARETS AT CLIFFE



£150,000

Two bedroom semi detached house with double glazing, gas central heating and garden.

ELMS VALE



£155,000

Four bedroom end of terrace house in Elms Vale area with double glazing, gas central heating, utility & garden.

DOVER



£159,995

Two bedroom ground floor apartment in sought after sea front development. No chain.

SHEPHERDSWELL



£199,995

3 bed EOT house in village location with 2 receptions, bathroom & shower room, d/glazing, GCH, garden & ORP.

RIVER



£215,000

4 bed det family home in sought after location with 2 receptions, conservatory and double garage.

RIVER



£249,000

3 bed extended semi detached house, en-suite and dressing room to master. D/glazing, GCH, garage & gardens

MARTIN MILL



£250,000

Internal viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the character of this 3 bed former coach house in rural.

WHITFIELD



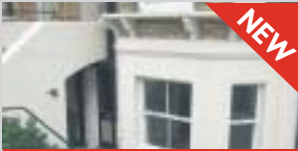
£279,950

Three bedroom detached house with two receptions, en-suite, conservatory, garage and gardens. No chain.

Folkestone 01303 259211

folkestone@bairstoweves.co.uk

FOLKESTONE



£69,950

Garden flat with no chain, cloak, lounge, kitchen, bedroom & bathroom/WC. 30' wall enclosed garden.

FOLKESTONE



£119,500

3 bed split level apartment situated in Folkestone Harbour. Near all local amenities and offers some sea views.

FOLKESTONE



£119,995

2 bed terrace home with d/glazing, gas c/heating, front and rear gardens & ORP.

FOLKESTONE



£124,995

Two bedroom top floor apartment in the West End of Folkestone offered for sale with no chain.

CHERITON



£139,950

Viewing is recommended for this 2 bed EOT house. Recently rewired & a central heating system installed.

FOLKESTONE



£147,500

5 bed EOT house situated in a cul-de-sac. GCH, double glazing and a courtyard garden.

FOLKESTONE



£149,950

Ground floor flat with L-shaped entrance hall, bay lounge, kitchen, 3 beds, bathroom/WC & storage.

HAWKINGE



£179,000

Semi-det chalet bungalow with gardens, garage, 3/4 car parking, double glazing and GCH.

SANDGATE



£199,950

EOT house with lounge, d/room, kitchen, 4 bed and bathroom/WC. GCH. Enclosed courtyard. No chain.

FOLKESTONE



£215,000

2 bed detached bungalow, landscaped rear garden, sun room, d/glazing, gas c/heating, garage & ORP.

FOLKESTONE



£225,000

3 bed detached family home with d/glazing, GFCH, garage and off road parking.

FOLKESTONE



£230,000

Five bed semi-det house over 3 floors. Easy walking distance of the town, Radnor Park and train station.

FOLKESTONE



£315,000

4 bed EOT house over 3 floors, lounge, d/room, kitchen, break/ room, study, cloak, ensuite & 2 bathrooms/WC's.

HYTHE



£510,000

5 beds, 2 receptions, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, d/garage, paddocks approx 1.5 acres, stables & tack room.

FOLKESTONE



£550,000

6 bed det property in the 'West End'. Arranged over 3 floors with attention to detail throughout.



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SELLINDGE

£179,995



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- End Terrace 19th Century Cottage • Private Community Village Location
- Two Double Bedrooms • Backing Onto Surrounding Fields
- Open Plan Living Space • Parking And Garage
- Rear Garden With Sunny Aspect • Viewing Is A Must

SHOLDEN

£249,000



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- Unique Barn Conversion • Two Double Bedrooms • Highly Sought After Private Estate • Vaulted Ceilings To Lounge
- Modern Bathroom And Kitchen • Front Courtyard Garden
- Set In Private Grounds • Parking • D.Glazing Where Stated

SALES

HAWKINGE

£153,000



folkestone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9714

- Semi Det Home • Popular Hawkinge Cul-de-sac • 2 Dble Beds

FOLKESTONE

£79,995



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- Top Floor Flat • Two Double Beds • In Need Of Modernisation

DOVER

£59,995



dover@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9712

- Converted Flat • Over Two Floors • 2 Beds • D/Glazed

SHOLDEN

£179,950



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- 2 Dble Beds • Semi Det Bungalow • OSP & Garage • Conservatory

FOLKESTONE

£129,950



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- 3 Bed Det Family Home • In Need Of Modernisation • NO ONWARD

FOLKESTONE

£219,750



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- Eco Built House • Solar Panel Water System • 3 Beds • En-Suite

DOVER

£95,000



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- 2 Bed Cottage • Rear Garden • GCH • Some Period Features

DEAL

£219,995



dover@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9712

- No Forward Chain • 4 Beds • 2 Reception • Modern Kit/Breakfast Rm

HAWKINGE

£250,000



folkestone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9714

- Semi Det Houses • Over 3 Floors • Four Bedrooms With 2 En-Suites

HAWKINGE

£230,000



folkestone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9714

- Det Family Home • Hawkinge • 3 Beds • D/stairs Cloak W/C

EYTHORNE

£175,000



dover@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9712

- Semi-Det House • 3 Beds • Stamp Duty Exempt • Living Room

DEAL

£169,995



dover@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9712

- 2 Beds • Terraced Cottage • Conservation Area • Through Lounge

FOLKESTONE

£295,000



folkestone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9714

- Detach Bungalow • 3 Dble Beds • Loft Room • En-suite to Master

FOLKESTONE

£129,995



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- Semi Detach Home • NO ONWARD CHAIN • 2 Beds • Lounge/Dining Rm

DOVER

£160,000



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- Det Bungalow • 2 Beds • Garage & Driveway • Living/Dining Room

WALMER

£169,995



dover@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9712

- 3 Beds • Semi Detached House • OSP & Garage • Through Lounge

First time buyers return - make your move today

Thinking of selling? Don't delay - the market is coming back to life. In February, new buyer registrations rose by 17 percent and agreed sales by 36 percent*. And, importantly, first time buyers returned with a vengeance with more than double** looking to buy in the first two weeks of January. It's good news for the market and great news if you are thinking of selling. **Act now.**

Contact us for more details.

*Source: "Hometrack Mar 09."
**National Association of Estate Agents Mar 09.



LETTINGS

BOUVERIE ROAD WEST £500PCM



folkestone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9714

- 2 bed flat • Newly decorated • Gas central heating • Close to town centre

DOVER

£375PCM



dover@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9712

- 1 bed grd floor flat • Sought after location • D.g., central heating

DYMCHURCH £650PCM



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- 2 Bed detached bungalow • Newly refurbished • Garage & conservatory

DOVER

£500PCM



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- 2 bed 1st floor flat • Bay fitted kitchen • Own garden available now

WEYMOUTH ROAD £750PCM



folkestone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9714

- BRAND NEW 3 BEDROOM HOUSE • Eco Friendly = low running costs

ST MARGARET'S BAY £395PCM



dover@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 97120

- Unfurnished • Gas central heating • Courtyard garden • White goods

HYTHE £775PCM



folkestone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9714

- 3 Bed end of terrace • Sought after location • Garage and garden

DEAL £880PCM



dover@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9712

- 4 bedroom house • Unfurnished • Close to town centre • Garage

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FOLKESTONE **OIRO £80,000**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02742**

- 1 BEDROOM HOUSE
- FULLY RENOVATED
- NO CHAIN



FOLKESTONE **£220,000**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02270**

- VERY LARGE APARTMENT IN GOOD LOCATION
- TWO BEDROOMS/TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- STUDY/OWN PRIVATE REAR GARDEN



THE LEAS **£275,000**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02728**

- WESTCLIFF LOCATION, SEA VIEWS
- 3 BEDROOM, 2ND FLOOR APARTMENT
- 2 RECEPTIONS, LIFT



HAWKINGE **£205,000**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02738**

- Modern 3 bedroom detached
- 2 Receptions, cloakroom
- En suite & garage/driveway



TOWN CENTRE **£109,950**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02910**

- ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT
- NEWLY BUILT
- NO CHAIN



FOLKESTONE **£159,995**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02895**

- 4 BED SEMI - DETACHED
- OFF ROAD PARKING, LARGE GARDEN
- NO CHAIN



DOVER **£299,995**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02847**

- Huge Semi detached
- 5 bedrooms & 4 bathrooms
- Desirable location



PEENE **£174,995**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02699**

- Cottage in charming rural spot
- Central heating, double glazing
- Generous garden, parking



EASTCLIFF **£79,995**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02082**

- STUDIO FLAT
- NEWLY RENOVATED
- NO CHAIN



FOLKESTONE **£194,995**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02634**

- 5 Bedroom family home
- 2 Receptions, cloakroom
- Courtyard & no chain



WEST END **£169,950**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02379**

- 2 BED APARTMENT
- LOTS OF FEATURES
- SHARED GARDEN & NO CHAIN



FOLKESTONE **£154,995**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02739**

- GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
- TWO BEDROOMS, ONE EN-SUITE
- PRIVATE GARDEN



FOLKESTONE **£284,995**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02891**

- Fantastic family home
- Sought after location
- 4 Beds, master en-suite



FOLKESTONE **£249,950**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP01807**

- Detached two bedroom bungalow
- Two reception rooms
- Fantastic Views over the seas



SWISS WAY **£464,995**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02898**

- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED
- DOUBLE GARAGE
- PANORAMIC SEA VIEWS



WEAR BAY ROAD **£159,950**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02475**

- 2 BEDROOM SEMI BUNGALOW
- GARAGE & LARGE GARDEN
- NO CHAIN



WEAR BAY ROAD **£229,950**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02926**

- 4 BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
- GARAGE & SEA VIEWS
- NO CHAIN



DOVER **£105,000**

FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02839**

- Large 3 bed apartment
- Luxury fittings
- No Chain

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Deal | Price Range £375,000-£400,000

- 3 Bedroom Detached Equestrian Property
- Stable Block & Loose Boxes, Approx. 1 Acre
- Views Over Farmland, Conservatory/Sun Lounge

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



Walmer | Price Range £190,000-£210,000

- 3 Bedroom Property, No Onward Chain!
- Located On Corner Plot, Popular Part Of Deal
- Central Heating, Double Glazing & Garage

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



Walmer | Price Range £165,000-£185,000

- 3 Bedrooms
- Popular Location
- Child Friendly Garden

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



Deal | Price Range £160,000-£175,000

- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Good sized Kitchen/Diner
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420

GOOD NEWS!

Our viewings are up
a staggering 62%
compared to last year.*

Can we get you moving?

GREEN SHOOTS

ARE appearing in the
PROPERTY MARKET!

VIEWINGS UP
62%

* Source: 113 offices across the south-east, Jan-Mar
2009 compared to Oct-Dec 2008.



Deal | Price Range £157,500-£175,000

- 3 Bedroom Property, No Chain!
- Lovely Rear Garden, Parking
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



Deal | Price Range £159,000-£170,000

- 3 Bed Terrace, Long Rear Garden
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Potential For Parking!

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



Deal | Price Range £150,000-£165,000

- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Rear Conservatory Extension, Parking
- Double Glazing & Central Heating

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



Walmer | Price Range £140,000-£155,000

- 2 Bedroom Purpose Built Apartment
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Balcony, Garage En-Bloc

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



Deal | Price Range £130,000-£145,000

- 3 Bedroom Bay Fronted Property
- Popular Location! No Chain!
- Front & Rear Garden

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



For your ideal home, contact your local branch:

Deal: 01304 361420

Dover: 01304 214876

Folkestone: 01303 256505

tersons

the fast *moving* estate agent!**Dover** £97,500

- CHAIN FREE!! Central location
- 2 Double bed 1st floor flat
- Lounge, modern kitchen/diner
- D. glazing, Gas central heating

Dover: 01304 246111**Dover** £109,995

- CHAIN FREE
- 2 Double bed Extended house
- Lounge • D. glazing
- Gas central heating

Dover: 01304 246111**Dover** £120,000

- 2 double bedroom apartment
- Close to town centre
- Lounge/diner, Modern kitchen
- Garage, Chain free

Dover: 01304 246111**FEATURE PROPERTY****River** **OIRO £185,000**

- 3 Double Bedroom Penthouse Apartment
- 2 Bedrooms with en-suite bathroom
- Lounge, dining room and modern kitchen
- 2 Roof terraces • Garage • DG & GCH
- Good order throughout!!
- Chain Free!!!

Dover: 01304 246111**Elvington** £130,000-£140,000

- 3 Bed semi-detached house
- En-suite shower rm to master
- Lounge, modern kitchen/diner
- Great conservatory

Dover: 01304 246111**Lydden** £159,995

- 2 bed semi-detached bungalow
- Lounge, modern kitchen
- D. glazing, Useful loft room
- Driveway, garage & rear garden

Dover: 01304 246111**River** £195,000

- 3 Bed detached bungalow
- Lounge/diner, Double Glazing
- Gas central heating
- Driveway and garage

Dover: 01304 246111**Gateway** 202,500

- CHAIN FREE, 3 bed apartment
- Fantastic Sea views
- Lounge/diner, 2 front balconies
- Enclosed rear balcony

Dover: 01304 246111**Lydd On Sea** £120,000

- Building Plot, Sea Views
- SSSI land to Rear
- Planning Application
- Detached Chalet Style Home

New Romney: 01797 364600**Littlestone** 129,995

- Fantastic Sea Views!
- Balcony, Lounge
- Kitchen with Space to Dine
- 2 Double Bedrooms

New Romney: 01797 364600**Littlestone** £220,000

- Detached Modern House
- Superb Location
- Well Presented
- 3 Bedrooms

New Romney: 01797 364600**Greatstone** £225,000

- Seafront Position
- Detached Home, 4 Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner, Bathroom
- Cloakroom, En-Suite

New Romney: 01797 364600**New Romney** £245,000

- 4 Bedrooms
- Very Well Presented
- Ideal Location, Large Lounge
- Outside Storage Space

New Romney: 01797 364600**Public notice****52 Roberts Road, Greatstone, New Romney, Kent TN28 8RQ**

By order of the mortgagee in possession, we would advise you that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds (£120,000.00)

Any Person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the selling agents, Tersons, of their best offer during the course of the next 7 Days from Wednesday 8th April

New Romney: 01797 364600

27-29 Castle Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1PT e: dover@tersons.com

Dover: 01304 246111 New Romney: 01797 364600**Tersons Commercial****Dover - Offices** £11,000 per annum

- Approx. 2,211 sq. ft of space
- Lift access, Car parks
- Bus and train stations nearby

Dover: 01304 246115**Dover - Shops** from £3,500-£13,600 per annum

- Various units to rent
- Covered shopping mall
- Linked to car park

Dover: 01304 246115**Dover - Industrial** £30,000 per annum

- Off the busy Industrial Estate
- Total internal floor of 6840 sq ft.
- Roller shutter door

Dover: 01304 246115**Dover - Industrial** OIRO £350,000

- Storage, Office, Warehouse
- Potential for redevelopment
- Subject to permissions

Dover: 01304 246115**Dover - Workshop/Storage/Warehouse** £3.00 psf

- Sizeable and useful space
- Conveniently for motorway routes
- Maxton end of Folkestone Road

Dover: 01304 246115**Dover - Industrial** £20,000 per annum

- Substantial detached unit
- Close to railway station
- Internal storage of 6,859 sq ft

Dover: 01304 246115

Contact our Commercial Team on 01304 246115 e: commercial@tersons.com

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GODWYNE CLOSE, DOVER 2 double bedroom 1st floor flat **£525 PCM**
BENCH STREET, DOVER 2 boom recently refurbished flat **£400 PCM**
FARTHINGLOE COURT- DOVER Various 1 bedroom flats **£400 PCM**
THE PADDOCK, DOVER 2 Bedroom top floor flat close to town. . . **£425 PCM**
DOVER Spacious 3 bedroom maisonette, Sep. lounge & kitchen. . . **£525 PCM**
WINCHELSEA STREET 2 bedroom terraced house. Lounge/diner. **£520 PCM**
DOVER 2 Bedroom top floor flat with roof terrace. Good order. . . . **£425 PCM**
HAROLD STREET Spacious 2 double bed ground floor apartment. . **£525PCM**

NEW ROMNEY OFFICE

CAMBER Large 2 Bed Flat First Floor **£450 PCM**
GREATSTONE 4 Bed Detached 'on the beach'. **£850 PCM**
LITTLESTONE 3 bed semi, gge, lge garden. **£775 PCM**
LITTLESTONE 3 bed detached by Golf Course **£850 PCM**
LYDD 4 Bed Detached, fab price. **£600 PCM**
ALDINGTON 4 Bed Barn, lovely rural location **£1250 NEG PCM**

Dover: 01304 212423 New Romney: 01797 364667

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WOMEN seeking men

TAKE ME FOR WHO I AM

Hi I'm Sam, 22, looking for a relationship. I'm blonde, brown eyes, love cosy nights in and cinema, looking to share a relationship. Box 447871

WHAT'S THE SCORE?

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5'2", a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & more, seeks similar male, 58-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 448756

BRING ME SUNSHINE

Outgoing, fun female 28, seek outgoing, fun guy to make me laugh, share good times with. Box 882511

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

READY FOR ME?

Single mum from Kent, 34, 5ft4, works part time, looking for an easy-going and genuine male with gosh for friendship, more. Box 450649

LIVING IT

Fair-haired female, 35, 5ft, loves the gym, pubs, nights out and fine company, searching for fun bloke, for life, love and laughter. Box 881011

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595

A NEW FUTURE!

I'm Rachel, 35, medium, enjoys pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, cinema, theme parks, looking someone special to share things with. Box 448591

ON A ROLL!

Hi, I'm Alison, 36, 5ft5, single mum, loves swimming, roller skating and meeting new people, looking for a male for friendship, maybe leading to more. Box 448865

WISHFULLY YOURS

Loving female, 37, 5ft2, brown hair, slim build, looking for honest, caring male with GSOH, for friendship, leading to more. Ashford. Box 449915

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!

Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724

FULL STEAM AHEAD

Seeking genuine, sincere, honest guy who likes to have fun. I'm a friendly, 40yr old female, like cats, wind surfing, railway trips, cafes. Box 449747

THE SIMPLE THINGS...

I like reading/writing, going out, music. Seeking kind, genuine, honest chap; I'm a 40yr old woman who enjoys the simple things in life. Box 448542



YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893

ANIMAL LOVER?

Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for a kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, wltm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

SOUND GOOD?

Medium build brunette, 40, 5ft7, single mum, enjoy bowling and water-sports, looking for a tall, non-smoking, white male for a stable and affectionate relationship. Box 450658

WHERE LOVE TAKES US

Attractive woman with a great personality to go with, looking to meet a fit, tall, well-built black male, 35-55, for fun times and hopefully romance. Box 450650

NO TIES

Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTm slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443573

LOOKING FOR A LOVING CHAP

Ashford-based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring and loving man. I have two kids and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446985

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE

37yr old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for a caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box 446552

HISTORIC MEETING?

Blond, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large-build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 348102

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for friendship/happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897963

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL

Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gsoh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

AIMING HIGH

6ft blonde aerobics instructor, female, 43, seeking decent, tall, fit male for companionship, hopefully leading to a relationship in my spare time (mainly afternoons). Box 446017

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!

Single mum, 43, kind and devoted, likes walks, cinema, beaches and socialising, drinks and films, seeks similar man for lasting love. Box 449586

COME ON DOWN!

Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising, seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693

SOUND GOOD?

Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, love reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more! Box 449186

LOOKING FOR LOVE

Sun-loving 48yr old woman with a second home in Lanzarote, 5ft6, fairly slim, hazel eyes, looking for a man to share fun times with. Box 450310

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

HAPPY GO LUCKY

Sincere, happy woman, with GSOH. I'm 5ft6, with short brown hair, brown eyes. I have lots of interests and WLTm similar guy. Box 895019

LAUGHTER, THE BEST MEDICINE

Help me write my stand-up comedy routine! I'm 49, you'll need to make me laugh out loud and understand observational comedy to make the grade. Box 892640

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easy-going single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562

LAST CHANCE

Good-looking female, 50, looking for a kind, reliable and honest man, must be a moderate drinker, for companionship and romance. Box 450655

BE MY GUY

Young 50s lady, slim, 5ft4, fair hair, a smoker, loves music, going out, cooking, gardening, seeking similar loving, caring, honest male. Box 449288

HERE AND NOW

Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524

ENTERTAIN ME

Female, 50, medium build, confident, sensual guy for regular wining, dining, loving and laughter! Must be honest, genuine and loving. Box 438954

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 40, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55, Hastings. Box 417100

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WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS...

I'm 51, fed up with playing solitaire on the computer! Sincere and loving, enjoy many interests, looking for friendship, hopefully leading to more. Box 881711

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...

Young looking, hard working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410

MAKE IT HAPPEN

Tina, 53, 5ft2, blue eyes, enjoy spending time with my family, looking for a companion to enjoy nights out, quiet meals and fun times with. Box 450812

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

A COMPANION FOR LIFE?

Blonde lady, 56, 5ft5, medium build, attractive, devoted mum, ready to start dating again and seeking male who loves travel, theatre, walks, cinema and more. Box 448449

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE?

Hi, I'm 58, 5ft7 with fair hair, medium build, love dancing and music, pubs, clubs, socialising, looking for a similar easygoing, romantic man for love. Box 450764

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WALKS ALONG THE COAST

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

HAPPY AS ME

Fun-to-be-with, happy, contented lady (60), 5ft4, I enjoy theatre, dining out and having friends round for a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 882812

SOMEbody TO LAUGH WITH...

Loving lady looking for companionship, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, loves dancing, walks and animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 446382

PUT SPARK INTO LIFE

Caring slim female, 64, 5ft2, like meals out, cinema, walks, gardening and golf, looking for a kind and loving companion, 60-68. Box 450581

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Smart, attractive, bubbly blonde, 72, own house, GSOH, lives on coast, enjoys most things, WLTm smart gentleman for friendship, maybe more...Gareth please call again...leave contacts! Box 438147

Women seeking women

LOVE TO LOVE

Easygoing female, 40, blue eyes, blonde hair, medium build, likes wining, dining, socialising, holidays, walks cinema; seeking likewise female for companionship and more. Box 448952

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE

Feminine woman, easygoing, caring, 45, long brown hair, blue eyes. I love music, eating out, reading/writing, drives, weekends away. WLTm boyish female. Box 448248



MEN seeking women

FOREVER AND EVER

Roland, 22, looking for a woman, 18-25, for fun, friendship and hopefully love. I'm fun to be with and have a heart of gold. Box 450586

PERFECT FOR YOU

Black male, 25, currently a student, 5ft6, attractive, likes pubs and clubs, cinema and going out for meals, looking for a like-minded girl. Box 450770

COUPLE UP

Bachelor, 28, I like music, travel, socialising, I live in Rye, and WLTm like minded woman, with similar interests. Box 450665

KEEPING IT REAL

Hi I'm Andy, 36, seeking female 18-30, blonde, blue eyes, slim, to get to know towards hopeful relationship. Box 450810

THE GOOD LIFE

Blonde male, 37, 5ft9, love golf, don't mind a beer, WLTm an open-minded male for good times, maybe a relationship. Box 450544

DOWN BY THE BEACH

Hi I'm Kevin, 37, 6ft1, medium build, loves cinema, music, walks and the sea, seeking similar guy to find love with. Box 449844

AIM HIGH

Straightforward guy, 37, looking for someone between 18-20, blonde, slim with blue eyes, to find love and settle down with, have a family. Box 450752

EVERYTHING I DO

Lee, driver, 36yr old, 6ft3, dark hair, like pubs, clubs, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, wltm a woman for friendship and romance. Box 889720

MAKE ME SMILE AGAIN

Seeking genuine lady. I'm a 38yr old male, 5ft9, dark hair/blue eyes. I work hard and play hard, would like to enjoy spare time with partner. Box 449649

STICK WITH YOU

Attentive 38yr old male, looking for a special lady to slowly re-discover all the finer things in life with. Box 450599

TIME'S ON OUR SIDE!

Adventurer, 38, medium build, 5ft8, love my motorbikes and cars, gigs and especially road trips! Looking for female 30-40 who's outgoing, for fun and friendship. Box 450333

A MAN OF FEW WORDS, BUT MUCH LOVE

Hi, 40yr old fun-loving male, looking to meet slim fun-loving female, looks unimportant, for hopeful LTR. Many hobbies and interests! Box 450819

TLC ON OFFER

Good-looking man, 40, 5ft7, medium build, dark hair/brown eyes, like travelling, sport and adventures, looking for a girl, same interests, 20-33, for friendship/romance. Box 450613

HOP ON!

Hello there, I'm male, 40, medium/large build. I enjoy most things in life, going out, nights in, WLTm nice woman to share interests with. Box 450678

HIYA

I'm a cute and laid-back guy, 41, 5ft8, short hair, athletic, very tactile, loving and spontaneous, likes shopping, travelling, eating in/out, hate football! Brighton. Box 450614

INTELLIGENT AND FUNNY

Enquiring, motivated, compassionate, open-minded and easygoing male, 41. Love people who show happiness, uniqueness, optimism, generosity, kindness and independence. Box 450827

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT I WANT

Caring 41yr old male, 5ft11, short brown hair, blue eyes, enjoy theme parks, cinema, bowling, looking for a lady, 18-32, for friendship, maybe a relationship. Box 450316

PUT THE SPICE BACK IN!

Familial oriented guy, 41, separated, looking to find a lady who wants the fun and company of a partner back into their life. Box 884085

MAKE IT A LOVELY DAY

Hi, I'm Carl, 40, GSOH, 6ft, light green eyes, brown hair, looking for a fun, bubbly woman to share laugh, days out and much more. Box 436696

ON THE WINGS OF LOVE

Genuine, upbeat, comical male, 42, handsome, charming, likes sports, keeping trim, making new discoveries, seeks beautiful lady of inside and out for love. Penvensey. Box 450622

ALL NIGHT LONG

I'm 44, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft6, loves the cinema and beach walks, music, nights in and out, cooking; seeking female 35-52 for promising relationship. Box 449992

TO LOVE SOMEONE

Cheeky, happy, fit, intelligent 44yr old guy seeks an attractive, intelligent, fun-loving girl to take out and chat with and love forever. Box 450744

ROMANCE IN THE AIR

Very caring, loyal male, genuine and romantic, with GSOH, seeking lady with similar interests hopefully for LTR. I'm 44, slim build, with blue eyes/fair hair. Hastings. Box 446120

HURT IN THE PAST

Hastings area. I'm a 46yr old guy, seeking genuine, honest woman who is looking for a relationship. I have 2 daughters who I see regularly. Box 450091

INTERESTED?

Hard-working male, 46, smart, single, loyal, kind and caring, likes nights in and out, looking for romance or friendship first... Box 449756

MOTORS NEWS



Kit cars look attractive proposition in recession

MANUFACTURERS of kit cars could prosper from the credit crunch, says the organiser of Easter's Kit Car Show at the Kent Showground, Detling this weekend.

John Cooke said: "Many people budgeting up to £20,000 for a weekend fun car before the recession could now shop for a good quality two-seat roadster kit car that will set them back just £8,000."

Local kit firms include Cobra lookalike (as pictured) builder, Hawk Cars (Frant), AEON (Marden), Blaze (Otham), Cranbrook Kitcars and GKD (Maidstone).



Start-stop is real boost to Fiat star's eco cred

FIAT has a new 'Start&Stop' system for the 1.2-litre junior petrol engine on its 500 cult car.

It automatically turns the engine off when the vehicle stops and the driver selects neutral, restarting when the clutch pedal is depressed for gear selection and driving away. Fiat says Start&Stop can boost economy in town from 44.1mpg to 49.6mpg and cut emissions.

This (£9,500) 500 version also comes with MP3 compatibility, air-con, 15-inch alloys and remote audio controls.



A 'redundancy-proof' deal tabled by Volvo

VOLVO reckons fear of redundancy is a major barrier to car buying now so it has added free unemployment, life, accident and sickness protection to financial deals on its C30 hatchback coupé and S40 saloon (pictured) and V50 estate, including low emission DRIVE versions.

The free Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) covers all monthly payments due on the finance agreement for up to 12 months if needed. The deal runs until June 30 this year through participating dealerships and relevant Volvo Car Finance.



LITTLE BUT LARGE: Despite compact dimensions the Mercedes A-Class feels huge inside with excellent head and legroom with a boot that can be adjusted between two heights

Spacious Merc A-Class outgrows its pigeonhole

DOWNSIZING could open up new sales for the Mercedes-Benz A-Class after a midlife makeover.

Part of the problem before was the current A-Class – launched in 2005 – being pigeon-holed with junior models from BMW 1-Series and Audi A3, while unable to match the driving appeal and cachet of these sporting hatchbacks.

On the other hand, it can look expensive (from £14,000) against mainstream small MPVs, yet the Merc is really in a 'class' of its own – a clever three or five-door holdall for buyers aiming to downsize, but keep a posh badge.

In a driving context it also delivers more than most small MPV rivals without a significant ride penalty.

The steering can lack feedback, but the A-Class is a paragon of safety and security when pushed and the latest facelift has enhanced the front end with new headlamps and bumper, plus extra brightwork for the upmarket Elegance and Avantgarde trims.

Despite compact dimensions, the A-Class feels huge inside with superb head and legroom in the back, without robbing the car of boot space. The boot can also be adjusted quick-

ROAD TEST MERCEDES A-CLASS

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

ly between two heights to deliver a fully flat 'van' floor with extra compartment beneath when the rear seats are folded, or a deeper boot with the floor in the lower position.

The cabin feels staid, but well made, with good storage and a well-arranged dash.

Standard equipment on our smart sports trim 1.7-litre petrol Avantgarde is generous, but it has a typically hefty £17,626 price tag and spec'ing up with the desirable Luxury Package – leather seats, auto climate control, heated front seats and electrically adjustable front seats – take it to more than £19,000.

But Mercedes is generous elsewhere; our car was a new BlueEfficiency eco-friendly model that sells for around the same as a standard model – unlike the premiums charged for eco versions produced by other manufacturers.

And you start saving immediately with up to eight per cent better economy, lower emissions and lower road tax in most cases – plus a lighter conscience.

Ours is capable of an average mpg in the mid-40s and there is no discernable price to pay in terms of driving enjoyment, performance or comfort – the best way to deliver the green message.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE SUPERMINIS

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AS more people downsize their car and their fuel and road tax bills, chances are that one or all of the following popular used superminis will be on their shopping list. Year in, year out they are the UK's most consistent best-sellers – a growing trend in the current economic climate. The trio are also excellent all-rounders, but a word of warning: as second-hand car prices harden, make sure you don't pay more than it would cost to keep your old car longer or trade up to a new car.

FORD FIESTA



FORD'S hugely successful supermini has marched on with a new model launched in late 2008, but don't expect weaker used prices; the credit crunch, rising fuel prices and draconian road taxes have made the Fiesta a top target for its reliability, decent driving experience, engines to suit all pockets and three and five-door body styles. Ford has also regularly produced special and limited editions laden with extra goodies, offering plenty more choice and there is even a hot ST model.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

RENAULT CLIO



DOWNSIZING can be sensible and chic with the Clio and the most recent generations have married durability and driving fun with Gallic charm. Again, the option of three or five doors is a big selling point, but our French contender also has the bonus of excellent diesel versions, though the cost of the actual fuel versus petrol argues against it currently. The Clio design has tended to be highly practical as well as charming, with good space for rear passengers.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL CORSA



VAUXHALL'S Corsa was created to attack the Fiesta, yet has never quite achieved the volumes of its rival. Nevertheless, it offers similar virtues, plus a greater range of engines including a punchy and frugal three-cylinder petrol engine now in greater demand due to these straitened times. Several generations of Corsa followed a 'teardrop' body style, but the latest car is bigger and more aggressively sculpted – almost a 'supersize supermini' – with a sporty VXR version too.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★



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SUPPORT WORKER
required for four hours on a Thursday evening to support a young lady with learning disabilities in her own home in Teynham. Other positions may be available.
Apply to Jenny
01634 715995
c.r.service@btconnect.com

Recycling Advisors/ Supervisors

required to join our exciting Public Engagement Team, working across Kent on behalf of the Kent Waste Partnership to promote recycling to residents. Advisors: £7.00 p/h + expenses. Supervisors: £8.25 p/h + expenses. All positions full time (max 40 hours per week) for 11 weeks. Must be able to work evenings and weekends. Start date 08/05/09.

For an application form contact **Azim Khan** at **M-E-L Research** on **0121 604 4664** or email azim.khan@m-e-l.co.uk

To advertise in this section
 01303 817040

Swale Marina Clubhouse @ Conyer Require:

BAR STAFF
Bar work experience and food hygiene certificate preferable. Shifts/hours to suit Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon.

COOK
Food hygiene certificate essential.
Shifts/hours: Fri - Evening, Sat - Lunch, Sat - Evening, Sun - Lunch.
Please contact the Marina Office on **01795 521562**
Or e-mail enquiries swale.marina@virgin.net

We are looking for:
Waiting / Bar Staff
kitchen Porters & Commis Chef

t: 01622 749082
e: info@themulberrytreekent.co.uk

Keele House, Ramsgate require an
EXPERIENCED CARER
with at least NVQ2
Full time
Shift work - alternative weekends
Please contact Margaret on 01843 591735

Catalogue Distributors Required
£50-£300 per week
Flexi hours,
Part or full time, 18+
Tel: 0845 8736035
www.aim2aspire.co.uk

KOS Media, publisher of the award-winning Kent on Sunday, the Saturday Observer, and our midweek titles and associated websites, has a vacancy for a

Freelance sub-editor

We are currently looking for a freelance sub-editor for three days work a week. Candidates must have excellent QuarkXpress skills and be competent at using Adobe Photoshop.

You will be able to spot a typo at 100 paces and be able to write attention-grabbing headlines.

• To apply, send a CV and covering letter to: Dave Hobday, Head of Subbing or email dave.hobday@kosmedia.co.uk.



Award winning publications
www.kentnews.co.uk

KOS Media
Apple Barn,
Hythe Road, Smeeth
Kent TN25 6SR

Dover District Carers' Support

PROJECT WORKER

37.5 hrs per week (part-time may be considered for the right applicant)
Salary (NJC Scale 4): £17,574

One year fixed term (possibility to extend subject to longer-term funding)

The organisation provides support, advice and information to people over the age of 18 who care (unpaid) for a relative or friend. We are funded, in part, by Social Services and have contact with many other public and private sector bodies.

For this post we are looking for a sensitive, confident, versatile and articulate person who will champion the role of Carers. They will provide support and information on the phone or to Carers calling in at our newly opened Carers' Centre. This busy and demanding role will also include liaising with our many contacts to provide a quality service, as well as being involved in new projects. The work will be both office-based and involve regular travel to meetings and projects outside the office.

A full driving licence and your own transport are essential for this role.

For an application pack, please write to:

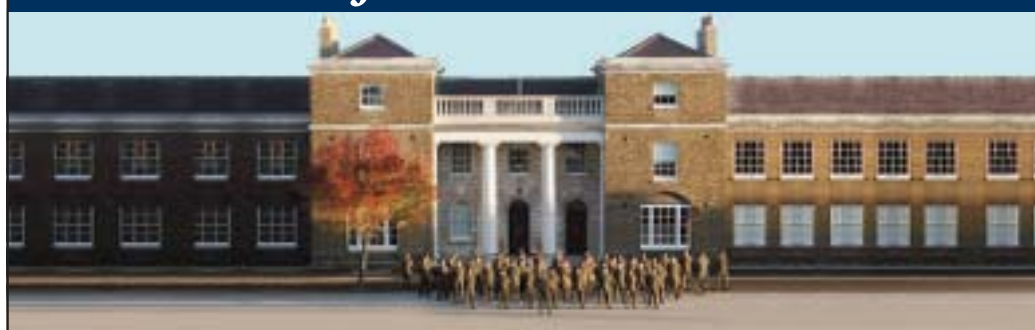
Tricia Cole, Manager, DDCS, 10 Victoria Road, Deal, Kent CT14 7AP

For further information email: sue@carers-doverdistrict.org Closing date: Friday 24 April 2009

Please note this is NOT a Careworker post.

Registered Charity No. 1097782

New Career for 2009



The Royal School of Military Engineering, Brompton Barracks, Chatham

Faculty Manager c£40k plus performance related pay

Candidates should have management experience and be well organised and disciplined. Reporting to the Head of Division you will be responsible for the efficient "day to day" operation of the faculty with a number of Programme Area Leaders, covering a wide range of engineering trade disciplines, reporting to you.

Leadership, Influence and Decision Making are critical skills that a candidate will be able to evidence.

Programme Area Leader £30,312 - £35,000

Candidates should possess relevant trade qualifications and experience in Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (ACR) or Heating and Plumbing (H&P) and be able to demonstrate supervisory skills and experience, ideally within these trade areas. Candidates will be required to undertake teaching duties in these trade disciplines, if required to maintain course continuity.

Evidence of formal teaching experience or qualifications is not critical as candidates will be provided with appropriate training and supported to achieve appropriate teaching qualifications. You will supervise a number of trade Instructors.

MKC Training Services Limited is responsible for delivering the trade, technical and professional training to the Royal Engineers at Chatham and has recently been awarded a 30 year contract. These positions are therefore permanent full time posts with the opportunity for the right candidates to join an exciting organisation making a real difference to the British Army.

If this looks like the right career move for you, contact Ken Pullan on **07725 128661** for an informal discussion or forward a copy of your CV to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

Job descriptions for these posts are available at www.midkent.ac.uk (follow RSME vacancies)

Closing date: 19th April 2009

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

MidKent College is an equal opportunity employer





Career Opportunities

Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer



Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Supply Lecturer Administration

Ref: S/SH/Admin

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 noon.

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Close to Town Centre

CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



A Key Stage 1 Teacher Vacancy

Temple Ewell C.E. Primary School

To cover maternity leave from September 2009 in a very popular, small, supportive and friendly C. of E. village school. Mixed year group class.

Would suit NQT or experienced teacher who is well motivated and has knowledge of creative curriculum.

If you are interested in this position, please call the school office (01304 822665) to book an appointment to view the school and receive an application pack.

Closing date - 24th April 2009

Date of interview - 5th May 2009



Career Opportunities

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer



Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Head of Faculty Arts, Media and Publishing

09/11

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £42,128 per annum

Manager Health & Social Care

06/110

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum

Temporary Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and Environmental Conservation

09/04

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum. Temporary post to cover maternity leave not to exceed 12 months.

Supply Registered Dental Nurse or Registered Hygienist required to lecturer on a range of courses

S/RDN

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Supply Lecturer required in the following areas:

- Floristry
- Security

S/FL
S/SEC

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Examinations Coordinator

ECO

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,963 per annum

Supply NVQ Assessors required in the following areas:

- Early Years
- Playwork
- Cleaning Support (Cleaning and Domestic)
- Security

S/NVQ/EY
S/NVQ/PW
S/NVQ/CS
S/NVQ/SEC

Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata per annum

Supply Lecturers within the Faculty of Engineering and Construction

S/EC

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

We run a wide range of courses from basic to advanced level and we are looking for professionals from the various trades to join our team of part-time staff. You will need to have suitable qualifications – such as C&G, BTEC, IMI, CITB or similar and current experience in one of the areas. We offer a teacher training programme to suitable applicants who wish to join us in providing this important service to the local community.

- Mechanical Engineering
- Vehicle electrics
- Plumbing
- Bench fitting
- Brickwork
- Gas fitting
- Turning and milling
- Carpentry
- Key Skills
- CAD
- Electrical installation
- Mathematics
- Welding
- Vehicle painting
- ICT
- Motor vehicle mechanics
- Vehicle body work
- Any other related trade
- Vehicle parts

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 noon

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



JobsforKent.co.uk The smart way to find a job in the County

Opportunities at



Canterbury City Council is a big business with a turnover of more than £100 million and over 900 employees. Rated an Excellent Council and a Times Best Council to Work For, Canterbury is a great place to work. Our conditions include final salary pension scheme plus benefits, flexible working hours and relocation package (where applicable).

Economic Development Officer

Chief Executive's Department ■ Salary range £20,517 to £25,719 pa ■ Permanent position ■ 37 hours per week

We are looking for an individual to manage projects that promote and support local economic development.

You will demonstrate an understanding of economic development issues and have excellent communication skills to develop relationships within the organisation and with partners including the business community.

Please quote job reference: 1814

Transmanche Enterprise Network Project Officer

Chief Executive's Department ■ Salary range £25,729 to £28,191 pa pro rata 22.5 hours per week ■ Three year fixed term contract

Are you self-motivated, excellent at project management and partnership development and experienced in European funding?

This exciting role involves supporting and encouraging entrepreneurship, the development of micro businesses and encouraging cross border trading. French or Flemish language skills would be an advantage and the ability to travel and work flexible hours are required.

Please quote job reference: 1815

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 12 noon 17 April 2009

Interviews and assessment process will take place on:

Job reference 1814: 29 April 2009 Job reference 1815: 30 April 2009

We prefer applications on-line. For further details of these positions and all our latest opportunities and to apply on-line, visit our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/jobs or e-mail jobs@canterbury.gov.uk If you are unable to access the internet, telephone 01227 862 072 (24 hour answerphone).

We can supply application packs in Braille or large print format if required

We are an equal opportunities employer.

Putting people first



SCHOOL RECEPTION SECRETARY

A Temporary, part time, position has arisen, due to retirement, in Riverview Junior School's front office. The contract will be for 3 months.

We are looking for someone with good people skills, professional telephone manner and who enjoys working with children. The successful candidate must be computer literate.

Closing date for applications is 9th April 2009.

Please contact the Headteacher Mrs R Dymond or the School Business Manager Mrs S Donovan at Riverview Junior School

Cimba Wood, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4SD
Email: headteacher@riverview-junior.kent.sch.uk

PART-TIME FIELD SALES EXECUTIVE DON'T EVEN CALL UNLESS YOU ARE AN OVER ACHIEVER & CAN PROVE IT!

We are a high quality, established company who have been trading in the construction industry for over 30 years.

Come and build an empire within our fine company.

WE ONLY EMPLOY TOP PRODUCERS.

If you were an **average** executive in 2009, you have earned so far this year your basic pay plus over **£3,000 in commission**.
If you were a **star** you would have earned the same basic plus over **£6,000 in commission**.

**YOUNG OR OLD, IF YOU HAVE GOT WHAT IT TAKES,
WE WILL KNOW!**

Contact us on: **01634 263121**



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require

COMMUNITY CARERS

FANCY A CHANGE IN CAREER THAT IS REWARDING?

All shifts required, especially evenings and weekends in Canterbury, Deal, Sandwich and Dover

Full training given. Competitive rates of pay with enhancement paid for NVQ qualification. Uniform supplied and mileage allowance paid.

Please contact Sharon for further details.

For Canterbury, Deal and Sandwich call 01227 712300
For Dover call 01304 240424

or email meridiancbury@aol.com

Quantity Surveyor

All candidates must be educated to HND/HNC Building Studies or BSC Quantity Surveying or equivalent and come from an Engineering/Construction background with a proven track record in Quantity Surveying. The successful applicants must be commercially aware in dealing with sub-contract payments, interim monthly accounts, re-measurement, controlling contracts to budgetary requirements and final accounting.

Please apply in writing to Mr N Piper,
Piper Double Glazing Ltd,
140 Newington Road,
Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP



Intervenor for Children and Young People with Multisensory Impairment/Deafblind

Starting salary £23,053, with progression through contribution related pay to £26,421 pro rata

3 x 25 hours per week

Fixed Term posts until 31st March 2011

Countywide

Work bases for each post are:

West Kent: Kings Hill, West Malling
Mid Kent: Kroner House, Ashford
East Kent: Clover House, Whitstable

This is an exciting initiative under Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families.

This is an opportunity for practitioners experienced in working with children and young people with sensory impairment to work as intervenors with deafblind children from birth to 19 years of age.

Also working with families to develop and support individual communication modes, you will support children and young people with Multisensory Impairment (MSI)/deafblind to participate in extended services and community activities and so to enable families to experience "short breaks".

Working within the Specialist Teaching Service and in liaison with Disabled Children's Service, you will enskill service providers to communicate effectively with children and young people with MSI/deafblind and to support smooth transitions.

You should hold a suitable qualification within this field at NVQ level 3 or equivalent coupled with an additional qualification in MSI/deafblind, sign language, Braille, mobility or guide-communicator.

The 25 hours per week will be delivered flexibly to meet the needs of children, young people and their families as the post is likely to require some work in the evenings and/or weekends.

The ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day to meet the requirements of the service is essential.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote reference: CFE/09/0113.

Closing date: Midday, 21st April 2009.



A great place to work.
Our services aren't the same,
so neither are our people.



www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE ACROSS EAST KENT



Eastern and Coastal Kent

From Whitstable to Dover, Ashford to Canterbury, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent. We work hard to improve health and wellbeing, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality, responsive and efficient services.

As one of Kent's largest employers, we aim to have a world-class workforce. Invest your skills in us and we'll invest in you with personalised career development, flexible working, childcare, final salary pension scheme and many other valuable benefits.

Health Visitor X 2 (*) (🚗)

Ref: 767-ECL1021

Band 6: £24,831 - £33,436 per annum (pro rata for part time)

Herne Bay & Whitstable, Kent

Full Time: 37.5 Hours per week

(30 Hours would be considered)

We are looking for two dynamic, innovative, self-motivated, qualified Health Visitors to work in Herne Bay and Whitstable. You will be joining teams supported by skill mix and working towards integration with school nursing to provide a seamless service to children and families in our locality. We work within the Eastern and Coastal Kent Framework for Health Visiting, providing a progressive universal service.

If you are pro-active and keen to develop the Public Health Agenda and are also interested in developing services which respond to the needs of the community, then we would love to hear from you.

Excellent communication skills, a flexible, forward thinking approach and commitment to team working are crucial.

It is recommended that you phone the teams for an informal discussion and they will be very happy to facilitate an informal visit. Please contact the Whitstable Team on 01227 378558, the Herne Bay team on 01227 594773 or Susan Gough, Locality Clinical Co-ordinator on 01843 855487.

Some re-location expenses may be agreed as per our Relocation Policy.

A comprehensive corporate induction programme is provided at the commencement of employment.

Please ensure that you check your NHS Jobs account regularly in order to see if you have been successful in obtaining an interview.

(*) Employment in this post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau

(🚗) Car owner/driver essential, subject to the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)

For further information and to apply, please visit

www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk

Completed applications by: 17 April 2009.

Interviews to be held on: 6 May 2009 (Provisionally)

We are an equal opportunities employer
Committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults



PARTS ASSISTANT

Baileys Nissan require a Parts Assistant for busy parts department. Parts experience is essential. Nissan knowledge an advantage. Clean driving license required.

Apply with CV to

Mr G Tong

Baileys Nissan

Westminster Road

Vauxhall Ind. Estate

Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YY

01227 766777

email: guy.tong@baileysnissan.co.uk



ACCOUNTS CLERK

Six Month Contract

Salary dependant on experience.

Clive Emson Auctioneers has a vacancy for a Full-time Accounts Clerk to join our Maidstone Office.

Duties: All aspects of the running of our busy Accounts Department including data inputting, daily management of invoices, payroll, clients account, monthly bank reconciliations and all other duties up to trial balance level.

Sage Line 50 experience essential.
AAT qualification or equivalent desirable.

Apply in writing, with CV, to: Miss Andrea Bennett, Clive Emson Auctioneers, Rocky Hill, London Road, Maidstone, ME16 8PY or email: andrea@cliveemson.co.uk

Closing Date: Friday, 24 April 2009

Clive Emson
LAND AND PROPERTY AUCTIONEERS



SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNICIAN DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN

Science Laboratory Technician, 35 hours per week for 38 weeks a year (term time only).

Design & Technology Technician, part-time for 38 weeks a year (term time only).

Both salaries dependent on experience - Band 3 Kent Scheme Salaries

For further information please contact the Headteacher's P.A. Mrs. Theisen on telephone number 01622 689422 or email headteacher@st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk. You can also visit our website to download an application form and job description at www.st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk

Closing date, Friday 24th April 2009 at 2pm - interviews will take place shortly afterwards.

We are committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults



KOS Media, publisher of the award-winning Kent on Sunday, the Saturday Observer, and the YourLocal midweek titles and associated websites, has vacancies for

Distribution & Promotional staff

Part-time Weekends.

We require a number of staff across the county to assist in the distribution and promotion of our award winning titles.

The job will involve delivery to specific addresses, both business and residential, as well as assisting with various promotions in stores or at specific venues.

Good rates of pay, plus expenses.

• Please telephone Barbara or Lyndsay on 01303 817070.



Award winning publications
www.kentnews.co.uk

JOURNALISTS REQUIRED (Freelance/Contract)

KOS Media launched its Midweek series of local newspapers 18 months ago and there are now 10 titles covering towns and districts across East and Mid Kent.

Our industry is going through change but KOS Media's successful mix of newspapers, websites and online TV offers news journalists a unique challenge.

If you think you would like to be part of a growing media company and you are experienced, able to write great copy, confident enough to take responsibility and also come up with great ideas, I'd like to hear from you.

I have freelance and contract positions which I know will suit a lot of good journalists in this county.



Award winning publications
www.kentnews.co.uk

Contact:

Gary Wright,
Midweek Group Editor
on 01303 817032
or email gary.wright@kosmedia.co.uk

Fuji Seal Europe Ltd.

The Fuji Seal Group is the only shrink sleeve manufacturer offering a complete single source solution utilising its network of manufacturing operations in the UK, Netherlands, France, Poland, USA, Asia and Japan.

We are recruiting the following positions:

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Duties will include providing the sales team with administration support as well as liaising directly with customers and other internal departments to ensure projects run smoothly and delivery dates are met. Effective communication is key as well as good organisation skills.

GENERAL DUTIES PRINT (DAYS)

Duties will include making of Doctor Blades for printing presses, operation of automated cleaning of ink buckets, maintaining equipment and housekeeping. Full training will be provided.

You'll enjoy a full range of employee benefits.

To apply please send your CV to HR Department, Fuji Seal Europe Ltd, Scimitar Close, Gillingham Business Park, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0RJ or alternatively you can email to jobs@uk.fujiseal.com.

Closing date: 6 April 2009

STRICTLY NO AGENCIES PLEASE

Fuji Seal Europe are an equal opportunities employer.



MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following area:

Personal Tutor (Full-time, Part-time and Fixed Term)

Ref: P0316

Salary: £20,368 - £26,255 per annum/pro rata

We currently have a number of opportunities for full-time and part-time Personal Tutors. As a Personal Tutor you will plan and deliver a full range of group tutorials to learners with a wide range of abilities. You will be able to work with minimum supervision and have experience of working in a coaching, mentoring or teaching capacity and be willing to undertake an appropriate teaching qualification. When applying, please state clearly your preferred role.

Closing date: Friday 17 April 2009

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer



HEADTEACHER: PEGGY MURPHY, MA
BOUGHTON LANE, MAIDSTONE
KENT ME15 9QL
TEL: 01622 743925
FAX: 01622 744828
EMAIL: office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk
WEBSITE: www.five-acre.kent.sch.uk

Five Acre Wood School is looking for a RECEPTIONIST/CLERICAL ASSISTANT to join our lively admin team

The hours will be 32.5 hours per week term time only. You will be paid on the Kent Scale Band 3 salary range points 7-11 £10450-£11847 actual.

This job will be subject to satisfactory references and an enhanced CRB.

Please contact the school for an application pack. Closing date will be Thursday 9th April. Interviews will be held on Monday 27th April.

Five Acre Wood and all its personnel are committed to safeguarding children and young people.



MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Hourly Paid Lecturers in Beauty Therapy Ref: SE001

Salary: £20.37 - £28.92 per hour

The College is currently looking to recruit dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturers in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Hourly Paid Lecturers in Hair Design

Ref: SE002

Salary: £20.37 - £28.92 per hour

We are looking to recruit passionate individuals to teach assess and contribute to the development of Hair Design programmes. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and should hold or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Closing date: Friday 17 April 2009

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer



KOS Media is a highly successful newspaper publisher within Kent, that has received many awards from the newspaper industry for the innovative Kent on Sunday, Kent on Saturday and numerous mid-week newspapers.

We now have vacancies for experienced

Mac Operators

We are looking for experienced, confident, self-motivated team players who wish to gain experience within the industry to further their career.

The individual must have relevant Mac experience including knowledge of Quark, Photoshop and Illustrator. The ability to touch-type would be advantageous.

The candidate should be able to work under pressure, meet strict deadlines and be eager to work within a team environment to ensure the smooth operation of our fast-paced production department. Hours will be variable.

To apply, send a CV and covering letter to:

Personnel
KOS Media
Apple Barn
Hythe Road
Smeeth
Kent TN25 6SR
personnel@kosmedia.co.uk



Award winning publications
www.kentnews.co.uk

or email:

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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- It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Over-40s reminded future can be bright

A NEW programme to help the over-40s facing the dole or already unemployed is being piloted in the county.

Called Shape Your Future, it's a free workshop taking place over two and a half days to allow people to explore self-employment as an option for the future.

Business Link's Sharon Massingham, who designed the programme, said: "Facing redundancy is frightening, particularly in the current climate, especially for those who are more mature and fear they might not find work again."

"It is important to recognise that it was the job that was lost, not you. You have the same skills, knowledge and experience you had before you were made redundant."

"It may be you are passionate about a hobby or interest that could be a potential business opportunity. Why not come along and find out if it is a possibility?"

Dates are April 27 and April 29 at Lordswood; and tomorrow (Thursday), May 19 and May 21 at Chatham.

Further workshops, including one aimed specifically at executives and professionals, will take place in Medway during May and June.

The programme is funded by the South East England Development Agency. Details on 01732 878586.

Forum says demand more from suppliers

ANYONE running a business knows that one or two suppliers and the odd client can be pains in the nether regions, but the Forum of Private Business says dealing with them has become one of the biggest headaches.

The forum, which represents many businesses in Kent, is urging small firms to save money by creating more efficient dealings with suppliers.

A survey by research and consulting agency YouGov found that 42 per cent of the owners of small businesses who responded were most anxious about dealing with difficult suppliers and clients. The same proportion said that their greatest concern was the fear of technology not working properly.

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Julie Maddocks asks: 'Is small really beautiful in business?' Search 'crunch'

Trish's top tips could make the difference

BY TONY PATEY

TRAINING and development have shot to the forefront of business agendas as bosses realise that looking after their staff can help fight tough trading conditions.

With redundancies taking their toll, employers want to boost the morale and motivation of those still in work and training for the future is a key way of doing that.

Trish Fraser, managing director of Quality South East, the Investors in People centre for Kent, said: "Although it is generally accepted that staff development pays for itself in the long run, most companies are thinking about the short term at the moment."

"Making the case for investing in staff development has become more difficult in the past year as many organisations are focusing on efficiency and cost-cutting."

"However, those companies that look after their staff are much more likely to survive the recession."

Her top tips to help companies think about how they can develop their staff cost-effectively are:

- Prioritise training needs. Instead of cutting the budget on all training, think about what is essential for the organisation's development and which is desirable.
- Training does not have to be conducted by a specialist provider. People within an organisation that have received training are often very well equipped to deliver it and share best practice, which is also an empowering experience for employees.
- Development does not just mean training. Think about employees' roles and how their skills can be broadened through learning on the job.
- Allow employees flexible hours to pursue their own interests or to volunteer. Both can



PEOPLE MATTER: Trish Fraser, of Quality South East, says that training and development of workers remains crucial

lead to ongoing development, as well as helping staff to feel appreciated, without a cost to the employer.

• Following major reorganisations, many people are being asked to cover new and expanded roles, but it is important that employees do not feel new responsibilities are being forced on them. Helping staff to feel motivated to test themselves will maintain productivity.

• Managers must help employees get to grips with new situations and challenges they are facing. Low morale and a lack of skills will ultimately impact the bottom line in so many

ways, both in the long and in the short term.

• Look at subsidised courses. Government grants are available and it is worth investigating the help that is out there.

• Online courses, whether bought in or developed in-house, can be very cost-effective. Employees can work at a time to suit them and do not have to spend days out of the office.

• Good communication is essential; encourage staff to talk to each other and share ideas. It may be that an employee has discovered an ingenious way of overcoming a problem that his or her colleagues are struggling with.



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FOOTBALL

Double-header to decide whether Town take crown



WELL DONE: Hythe players get ready to celebrate

Hythe Town 1 Beckenham Town 0

HYTHE Town are now just two wins away from clinching the Kent League Premier Division title and with it promotion to the Ryman League.

Paul Fisk's side opened the scoring after 15 minutes through Gary Mickelborough and the winger's strike proved enough to earn Town the three points which keeps them top and ahead of the chasing pack.

Attention will now turn to the results of VCD Athletic and Holmesdale ahead of the six days that will most probably decide the fate of the Kent League title – as Hythe's closest rivals come to Reachfields in succession for the two biggest games of the season.

Fisk's side are without a game at the weekend, but return to action on Easter Monday when they take on VCD at Reachfields. With a four-point lead over second-placed Holmesdale, a win would set up the following Saturday's visit of the Dalers perfectly, with Town knowing that three points would secure them the title and promotion.

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Mark Stimson discusses what he feels has been turning point of the season



TOUGH-GOING: Folkestone Invicta boss Neil Cugley (left) was left frustrated by his young and injury-ravaged side's missed opportunities, the closest coming from Darren Smith (right)



Cugley rues missed chances as visitors' experience tells

FOOTBALL

■ BY FRED ATKINS

Folkestone Invicta 0

Kingstonian 2

Traynor (pen) 21, Thompson 30

FRUSTRATION was the order of the day for Folkestone Invicta, as they came close to an upset against Ryman South promotion contenders Kingstonian on Saturday.

Invicta created five clear chances in the first half and hit the post, but they were undone by a more clinical and experienced side.

"The chances we missed were all from nine or ten yards and we hit the post from 25 yards," manager Neil Cugley, himself a prolific striker during his playing career, said ruefully.

It was livewire midfielder Darren Smith who came closest for the home side, with a long-range effort that rebounded to safety after hitting the upright of Kingstonian keeper Luke Garrard.

The home side suffered an early blow when James Everett limped off with a hamstring injury and, with Cugley's collection of walking wounded and young players repeatedly spurning chances, the difference between the sides was Kingstonian's pacey forward Dean Lodge.

He fooled Invicta's inexperienced teenage defender Josh Vincent into conceding a penalty after 21 minutes, manoeuvring his way past

him after a throw-in and then drawing the foul.

Bobby Traynor made it 1-0 from the spot and Cugley had few complaints.

"It was one of those decisions," the manager reflected. "He's a young lad who's got caught on the wrong side of the attacker and although it was a bit disappointing to see it given, if it had happened at the other end we'd have been claiming it."

Stronger

On the half hour it was 2-0, with Adam Thompson showing Invicta's misfiring strikers how to find the target by rifling an effort past Jack Delo.

Folkestone Invicta starting XI



Subs used: Driscoll (J Everett 15)

For all Folkestone's promise in the first half, they seldom threatened after the break, with Cugley admitting Kingstonian deserved the points.

"They defended very well," he said. "We never really looked like scoring in the second half and it's just frustrating – because of all the injuries we've got it I have to keep patching up the squad."

"I think Cray were a lot stronger physically [than Kingstonian], but I think they've still got to play each other, so that's going to be one hell of a game."

• Folkestone travel to Dulwich on Saturday, before Easter Monday's derby with Ashford at Cheriton Road (kick-off 3pm).



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Hess: some of this squad are playing for their future

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD AND GLENN PEARSON

Heybridge Swifts 1

Coglin 12

Dover Athletic 1

Welford 69

DOVER remain on course to reach their 100-point target, but were made to battle for a draw at struggling Heybridge Swifts.

The home side, battling to stay in the division, opened the scoring after 12 minutes when Whites goalkeeper Preston Edwards found himself in no-man's-land, allowing striker Ben Coglin to hit home into an unguarded net.

The champions looked to be suffering a bit of a hangover in the first half, with Shaun Welford's header which drifted wide, being their best effort of a poor first half.

In the second half, James Rogers cracked the crossbar with an audacious volley from the edge of the area, before Andy Hessenthaler's side equalised just after the hour mark. Substitute Jerahl Hughes found space and hit a weak shot that dribbled across goal before being slammed home by Welford.

Rogers again came close to getting his name on the score sheet, but this time he was denied



Picture: SIMON HARRIS

Dover Athletic starting XI



Subs used: Sidebe (Pouton 66), Hughes (Jones 56)

The former Gillingham boss has already told his players he doesn't expect them to just give up after securing the Ryman Premier title, and has warned them to up their game in the final few matches of the season.

"I have told a few of the players that they are playing for their futures at the club," he said.

"A season does not finish after 37 games so the players still have something to play for."

"I still want to get to 100 points and we are five points away from that and have four games to go, so we will keep pushing."

New signing Lassana Sidibe came on as a substitute and played his part in Welford's goal. The winger, who is former Gillingham striker Mamedy Sidebe's brother, has joined on a non-contract basis until the end of the season.

Hessenthaler added: "We have brought Lassana to the club to have a look at and to be fair to him he was one of the positives on Saturday. He came on and helped create the goal. We will have a look at him between now and the end of the season."

ON THE BALL: Olly Schulz prepares to take a free-kick for Dover during the weekend's draw away at Heybridge Swifts

by the post and in the end Dover had to settle for a point.

Hessenthaler said: "We didn't play very well, but I have got to give Heybridge credit, they are fighting for their lives and did well."

Positives

"They had one chance to score and took it. We didn't play as well as I would have liked, but we had chances to win the game as we hit the post and the crossbar, but a draw was probably a fair result."

LEAGUE TABLES RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Dover Athletic	38	30	5	3	+52	95
2 Staines Town	38	22	12	4	+34	78
3 Tonbridge Angels	37	19	10	8	+29	67
4 Sutton United	38	16	12	10	+3	60
5 Carshalton Athletic	38	16	10	12	-4	58
6 Wealdstone	38	16	7	15	+12	57
7 AFC Hornchurch	37	16	7	14	+3	55
8 Maidstone United	37	14	11	12	+3	53
9 Dartford	37	14	9	14	+3	51
10 Tooting & Mitcham	38	14	8	16	-4	50
11 Canvey Island	38	14	7	17	-2	49
12 Horsham	36	14	6	16	-5	48
13 Billericay Town	37	13	9	15	-13	48
14 Harrow Borough	36	12	12	12	-14	48
15 Harlow Town	38	13	6	19	-9	45
16 Hastings United	38	13	6	19	-4	45
17 Ashford Town	36	14	2	20	-8	44
18 Boreham Wood	38	11	10	17	-13	43
19 Hendon	37	12	6	19	+1	42
20 Margate	38	11	7	20	-12	40
21 Heybridge Swifts	38	8	11	19	-20	35
22 Ramsgate	38	8	11	19	-22	31

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

1 Kingstons	37	22	7	8	+36	73
2 Cray Wanderers	38	22	7	9	+30	73
3 Fleet Town	38	19	14	5	+37	71
4 Metropolitan Police	38	18	13	7	+23	67
5 Worthing	38	18	13	7	+23	67
6 Sittingbourne	38	17	12	9	+9	63
7 Merstham	38	17	9	12	+5	60
8 Ashford Town	38	15	14	9	+17	59
9 Godalming Town	38	16	9	13	+20	57
10 Eastbourne Town	37	16	6	15	+3	54
11 Dulwich Hamlet	38	14	14	10	+13	53
12 Croydon Athletic	38	13	13	12	+6	52
13 Folkestone Invicta	38	14	10	14	+5	52
14 Walton & Hersham	38	13	9	16	-7	48
15 Leatherhead	38	12	7	19	-19	43
16 Whitstable Town	38	12	6	20	-21	42
17 Walton Casuals	38	11	8	19	-10	41
18 Corinthian-Casuals	38	10	10	18	-25	40
19 Witley Athletic	38	10	9	19	-14	39
20 Burgess Hill Town	38	8	13	17	-19	37
21 Chislehurst	38	8	11	19	-34	35
22 Crowborough Athletic	38	3	4	31	-78	13

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

1 Hythe Town	29	20	3	6	31	63
2 Holmesdale	28	18	5	5	30	59
3 Herne Bay	29	18	2	9	17	56
4 VCD Athletic	27	17	4	6	37	55
5 Faversham Town	28	17	2	9	41	53
6 Greenwich Borough	28	17	3	8	12	53
7 Erith Town	27	12	9	6	21	47
8 Croydon	27	13	4	10	19	43
9 Erith & Belvedere	27	13	4	10	11	43
10 Tonbridge Wells	29	12	5	12	1	41
11 Norton Sports	27	10	3	14	-11	33
12 Deal Town	27	8	7	12	0	31
13 Slade Green	27	9	4	14	-8	31
14 Sevenoaks Town	29	9	4	16	-17	31
15 Beckenham Town	29	8	2	19	-21	26
16 Lordswood	28	6	3	19	-29	21
17 Sporting Bengal	32	0	0	32	-134	0

FIXTURES

(Saturday): Ryman Premier League: Dover Athletic v Boreham Wood; Ryman South: Dulwich Hamlet v Folkestone Invicta; Kent League: Deal Town v Sevenoaks Town

Sharks sunk by a double whammy from Gravesend

RUGBY

Gravesend 20 Dover 19

FOR the second time this season, Gravesend edged out Dover Sharks by a solitary point in another hardfought affair.

Dover's start could not have been better. Direct from kick-off, Sam Coughlan took possession of a loose ball which was fed across the park to Ricky Mackintosh who touched down in the right hand corner with less than a minute on the clock.

The conversion was missed. G's responded, and from a penalty they recycled the ball to their right winger who scored after four minutes. Dover were under immense pressure and following a number of penalties conceded, G's took a quick tap to touch down with the extras added.

Dover had a difficult 25 minutes to contend with and they made numerous basic mistakes giving the hosts the upper hand. G's kicked a penalty late on to take a well-deserved lead.

With the advantage of the slope in the second half, Dover started well, but G's scored the killer try. Dover fought back, lifted their game and pressurised and they were soon back in contention when Stuart Dean fed Buster Collins to touch down, with Martyn Beaumont adding the extras.

Dover found themselves on the back foot, but they responded with a Beaumont try after 63 minutes.

The Sharks missed a penalty late on which would have won them the game.



Picture: IAN KIRKPOT

TIGHT MATCH: Dover were pipped by a single point against Gravesend for the second time this season

Senior coach Graham Tonks said: "We have only ourselves to blame having made too many errors and basic mistakes."

"We must be more clinical when opportunities are on offer, but overall the lads have again proved their worth against one of the best teams in the league."

RALLYCROSS



WELCOME: European Rallycross back at Dover circuit

European Rallycross returns at Lydden after 16-year wait

THE waiting is almost over for Lydden Hill as they are set to host the opening round of the European Rallycross Championship this Easter weekend.

The Dover circuit is set for a record crowd on the verge of 30,000 to flock to the 'home of rallycross' for the return of the championship after a 16-year wait.

The series, which is described as the rallycross version of the British Touring Car Championship, will see cars that can out accelerate a Formula One car, compete on the one-mile circuit.

Hosting the biggest event in rallycross marks the rise of the circuit from the ashes.

Lydden faced extinction in autumn 2008, until one of the sport's most famous families - the Doran's - stepped in.

A figure in the region of £1 million has been pumped into the venue since the Doran's have taken charge and the future looks bright for circuit.

Passion

Managing director Amy Doran said: "We have worked so hard to get what we have now. We didn't take it on from a business point of view, it was more of a passion."

"There has been a lot of blood, sweat and tears - it has not been easy, but since we have taken it over we have spent about a million pounds on improving it. Having the European event is a major positive."

Among some of the best rallycross drivers in the world battling for honours, Lydden will welcome Murray Walker to commentate on the action.

He said: "I have so many happy memories of being at Lydden, in the days when the BBC featured rallycross in their Grandstand programmes that made the sport a viewing must, and I'm expecting both to relive and create some new ones."

As for who will take the chequered flag on Monday, the smart money would be on 14-time European champion Kenneth Hanson.

However, after a successful winter, which included a win in the British Rallycross Champion, Liam Doran is expected to challenge for honours flying the flag for Great Britain.

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